University of Alberta

An exploration of the congruency between individuals' general and situational beliefs regarding sexual assault and their impact on defining situations as sexual assault.

by

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I would like to dedicate this manuscript to
those who through their determination and dedication paved the way before me,
to survivors who's inner strength never ceases to amaze me, and
to those who will come behind me
- may you never lose faith.

Abstract

Despite a large increase in education and media coverage on sexual assault over the past 10 years little research to date has examined the impact of this on individuals' perceptions of sexual assault. This study assessed University of Alberta students' general beliefs regarding sexual assault and examined how these beliefs were applied to scenarios in terms of definition and assigned responsibility. Overall, participants were aware of the definitions, prevalence, and common ideas regarding the cause and prevention of sexual assault. Despite this, only 11 of 18 scenarios were accurately defined as sexual assault. In addition, individuals' assignment of and reasoning for survivor and offender responsibility were not congruent with their general beliefs. The situational factors necessary for defining experiences as sexual assault were examined and discussed along with recommendations for future research, public educators, and crisis workers.

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INTRODUCTION

Prevalence of Sexual Assault

A Statistics Canada survey published in 1993 found that 39% of adult women in Canada have experienced at least one sexual assault, as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada, since the age of sixteen (Statistics Canada, 1993). FBI annual statistics have estimated lifetime prevalence rates of one in four women and one in eight men who will be sexually assaulted (Rennison, 1999). These findings are concurrent with other studies that have been conducted by various researchers in both Canada and the United States on university students, which found prevalence rates of sexual assault after the age of 14 to be between 17% and 27.5% (Koss et al, 1993; Finley and Corty, 1993; LoVerso, 2001; DeKeserdy *et al*, 1993). Further, reports on crime by type of offence as collected and produced by Statistics Canada have shown that sexual assault, along with other assault crimes, has been increasing over the last several years, while most other crimes are decreasing (Statistics Canada, 2002). It is likely that these prevalence rates are underestimates given the taboo around sexual assault and sexual abuse and because of fears of not being believed and feelings of somehow bring responsible for the assault (Kahn and Andreoli, 2000). From this information, it is apparent that sexual assault is a serious and prevalent problem in our society, which needs to be addressed.

Effects of Sexual Assault

Research has found the effects of sexual assault on survivors to be numerous, long-term as well as short term, and varied, impacting physical and psychological well-being and relationships (Jumper, 1995; Bagley, 1984; Sorenson and White, 1992; Ullman, 1996). Though in some rare cases the physical effects of sexual assault may be very severe and long-term, it is often the psychological impacts of sexual assault that are the most harmful and long lasting to survivors (Ullman, 1996). Research has shown that many survivors of sexual assault experience some level of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and rape trauma syndrome (Ullman, 1996; LoVerso, 2001; Jumper, 1995).

A significant relationship between sexual assault and subsequent depression, lowered-self esteem, suicidal behaviours, relationship problems, anxiety, and psychological conditions such as personality disorders and dissociative disorders has been shown in the research (Jumper, 1995). It is difficult to determine the exact effects that sexual assault will have on an individual because each individual is unique and employs different coping mechanisms in handling trauma and stress (Ullman, 1996). Some of the "coping mechanisms" which have been associated with sexual assault include abundant sex with various partners, eating disorders, drinking or drug addictions, self-injury, and a lack of attention to one's physical state and needs, all of which may lead to further physical, psychological and social problems (Ullman, 1996; Bagley, 1984; Sorenson and White, 1992).

Research has also shown that the effects of sexual assault are not limited to survivors but are far reaching in that they can affect partners, friends, family members, communities and even societies (Ullman and Filipas, 2001). Further, these effects can continue for generations if not properly addressed. Even from this brief synopsis, it is clear that the effects of sexual assault are harmful, and as such, should be reduced or minimized as much as possible.

Addressing Sexual Assault

In attempting to address the issue of sexual assault, research and public action have often sought one of two paths. The first path is to prevent and/or reduce the occurrence of sexual assault and sexual abuse. Studying offenders and their behaviours, promoting safety tips, and/or educating the public on the issue of sexual assault in terms of cause, definitions, impact and so on are the main ways in which prevention and reduction of sexual assault is addressed (Schwartz, 1993). The second path, focused on improving and understanding survivors' recovery processes involves studying the effects of sexual assault on survivors, friends and family, determining the effectiveness of various forms of treatments and interventions, and/or educating the public on the impact of sexual assault and the needs of survivors (Schwartz, 1993). Key to both of these paths is the understanding of people's perceptions about sexual assault.

Many studies have been completed over the last 20 years, which have looked at commonly held definitions of sexual assault, adherence to myths and beliefs around sexual assault. These studies have found that people tend to have different ideas about what constitutes sexual assault and consent, who is responsible for sexual assault, how it can be prevented, and how often it happens (Wie et al, 2001; Buddie and Miller, 2001; Highby, 2001; Verberg et al, 2000). Further, these studies have shown that many people believe the victim is often responsible or at least partially responsible for being sexually assaulted because of her/his behaviour as she/he was either not being careful, was drinking, flirting, dressed provocatively and/or not communicating clearly (Buddie and Miller, 2001). Many people have also indicated that they believe offenders often do not mean to sexually assault another but were too caught up in the moment to stop, do not realize the person they were with was not consenting and/or could not control themselves (Highby,2001). Though these studies are very helpful in shedding light on how different factors influence people's perceptions of sexual assault, very few provide any information on how all these factors are cognitively processed and what influence they have on one's ability to define a situation as sexual assault. As sexual assault does not occur in isolation, research attempting to gain a better understanding of sexual assault needs to examine several factors simultaneously and observe how they all interact in an individual's decision to define a situation as sexual assault or not.

Perceptions of sexual assault influence everyone involved from the offender and survivor to friends, family, other supporters, police, lawyers, and government officials. The manner in which individuals perceive sexual assault may influence whether they define a situation as such and how they respond to that situation. In the case of sexual assault, definition is very important because it is key to the identification of behaviors that are viewed as appropriate and inappropriate. Further, defining a situation as one thing or another acknowledges that something happened and allows an individual to make sense of that situation. When an individual defines an experience as sexual assault, she/he may begin to deal with their experience, as something wrong that was done to them as opposed to something that happened only to them because of who they are or what they were doing. Not defining the experience as sexual assault may limit the survivor's ability to deal with it and heal from it. Supporters (persons who know and support someone who has been sexually assaulted) who define a situation as sexual assault may be better able to provide help to the survivor even if the survivor does not acknowledge the experience as sexual assault. Finally, whether an offender defines an experience as sexual assault or not may influence whether he/she will see that behavior as acceptable and whether he/she will repeat it. Understanding each party's definition and perception of sexual assault is needed for the development of effective education, awareness, and prevention programs and for improving survivors' recovery processes.

Several research studies have found that defining an experience as sexual assault is a necessary step in a survivor's recovery process (Ullman, 1996; Botta and Pingree, 1997). For this reason, it is alarming that only 50% of all those reporting an unwanted sexual experience that meets the definition of sexual assault actually define their experience as such (Koss, 1993). Although part of this may be hypothesized as an individual's need to deny that the experience happened, it may be that survivors are not defining their experience as sexual assault because they are not aware of what legally constitutes sexual assault and consent , have certain ideas about how sexual assault takes place, who commits sexual assault, and/or because they feel responsible for their experience (Koss, 1993; Ullman, 1996; Botta and Pingree, 1997). What many may find most surprising is that individuals who do not define their experience as sexual assault face the same physical, psychological, and social effects as those that do (Ullman, 1996; Botta and Pingree, 1997). Some individuals who do not define their experience as sexual assault have been shown to experience a greater level of trauma after the assault over a longer period of time (Kahn and Andreoli, 2000). In light of this, understanding how survivors perceive and define sexual assault could help in improving survivor's recovery process.

A final argument for an increased understanding into how people perceive and define sexual assault is that many survivors disclose their experience to their friends before seeking help from any professional (Ullman, 1996; LoVerso, 2001; Ullman and Filipas, 2001). Further, many studies have reported that it is the reactions of friends, which seems to be particularly important in the survivors recovery process (Ullman, 1996; Botta and Pingree, 1997). If the friend or the person the survivor discloses to has a different perspective or definition about sexual assault the survivor may feel unsupported, blamed, or not reach out for further help. Studies have found that survivors who have a positive experience disclosing their sexual assault are more likely to have a faster recovery than those who have a negative experience (Ullman, 1996).

As sexual assault is a politically charged issue that has gained much attention in the North American public since its emergence as an issue in the mid 1970's, people may have two different levels of consciousness or perception about sexual assault (Gornick, Burl and Pittman, 1985; Begin, 1989; Donat & D'Emilio, 1992; Hinch, 1988; McNickle-Rose, 1977; Osborne, 1984). The first level, which can be termed the "global" level, happens when an individual is thinking about sexual assault from a distanced point of view. The second level, which can be termed the "situational" level, is an individual's perception of sexual assault when it has happened directly to her/himself or to someone she/he knows. It is this second level of perception that this study focuses on because it is this level that is involved in defining situations in life as sexual assault or not, although it may be interesting to see if there is indeed a difference between the two.

The main focus of this study will be to assess individuals' global perceptions of sexual assault and determine whether or not they are congruent with how participants respond to sexual assault scenarios. Of particular interest are participants' definitions of sexual assault and consent, their beliefs around the cause of sexual assault, and how it can be prevented. Form of forced sexual activity, non-consent, relationship type, and survivor gender will be examined in determining what factors influence individuals when deciding whether to define a situation as sexual assault or not.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is there a difference between individuals' global and situational perceptions of sexual assault?
    a. Are individuals' global definitions and perceptions of sexual assault congruent with how they define and perceive "real life" situations as sexual assault?

2. How closely do individuals adhere to the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent when determining whether a situation is sexual assault or not? What other factors, if any, are considered when determining whether a situation is sexual assault or not?
    a. How does the type of relationship, type of nonconsensual sexual activity, form of non-consent, and gender of survivor influence whether individuals define a situation as sexual assault?
    b. How is assigned responsibility to the parties' involved influenced by type of relationship, type of nonconsensual sexual activity, form of non-consent, and gender of survivor?

METHODS

Study Design

In an attempt to answer the research questions as completely and accurately as possible, a three-part questionnaire was developed to assess and examine individuals' global and situational perceptions of sexual assault and their personal background (Appendix A). The study was approved by the University of Alberta Health Research Ethics Panel B Board.

Sample

Research has shown that the risk of sexual assault is four times higher for women between the ages of 16 to 24 than for any other population age group (Warshaw, 1988). Further, a study conducted at the University of Alberta found that 21% of the respondents reported having experienced at least one unwanted sexual experience, matching the legal definition of sexual assault, at some point in their life (LoVerso 2001). Because the majority of undergraduate students attending the University of Alberta are between the ages of 18 - 25 it was deemed to be important to access students at the University of Alberta for this study. A further reason for using university students was that very little research to date has been completed on sexual assault and university students in Canada as compared to the United States where several such studies have been completed. A study of Canadian students would be more useful in developing various prevention and intervention programs for Canadian students, and would indicate whether there is a difference in people's perceptions about sexual assault between countries. Based on the above rationale, participants selected for the study were undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Alberta.

Part I: Personal Background

The primary aim of this part of the study was to gain information on the characteristics of the sample population for the purpose of defining the population. Participants were asked several questions consisting of multiple choice and yes/no answers about their gender, age, program of study, personal income, and personal experience. In assessing individual's personal experience with sexual assault participants were asked a serious of questions about whether they had been personally sexually assaulted, knew someone who had been sexually assaulted, and/or had received an education presentation on sexual assault. The questions used in this part of the study were modeled after those used by Koss *et al* (1993), Verberg *et al* (2000), and Statistics Canada (1993) surveying the prevalence of sexual assault.

Analysis

Participants' responses were tabulated and frequency distributions were created to allow for examination of the results. Descriptive statistics (i.e. mean, standard deviation, median, etc.) were calculated and used to describe the data.

Although further testing may have indicated the influence, if any, of personal background (gender, faculty, age, personal experience, attending a presentation on sexual assault, etc.) on participants' responses, for the purposes of simplicity it was not explored in this study.

Part II: Global Perceptions of Sexual Assault

To assess individuals' global perceptions of sexual assault, participants were asked questions about what they thought constituted sexual assault and consent, the cause, prevalence, and seriousness of sexual assault, and how they felt sexual assault could be prevented. In most questions multiple-choice was used, however, open-ended questions were used for cause, prevention, and seriousness of sexual assault as it was desirable to ensure participants responses were not limited by choices.

Analysis

Participants' responses were tabulated and frequency distributions were created to examine results in this section. T-tests were used to examine whether there was a difference between male and female participants' responses.

Three of the questions in this section were open-ended and required written responses from participants. These written responses were grouped into categories that were then used to create frequency distributions. To ensure coding reliability, two individuals read and scored the written responses separately, followed by compatibility tests that were conducted to ensure acceptable levels of agreement.

Part III: Situational Perceptions of Sexual Assault

To best examine individuals' situational perceptions and to determine whether there is indeed a difference between individuals' global and situational perceptions, scenarios were developed in an attempt to present an as-real-to-life situation as possible. Further, as sexual assault is not cognitively processed as a single event that happened without examining the context of the situation, the events leading up to the sexual assault, and the relationship between survivor and offender, scenarios were preferable as they added a context for considering sexual assault. Individuals were asked to indicate what they felt was taking place in each scenario, how sure they were with their response, and how responsible each party involved was in the situation. In addition to this, individuals were asked to briefly explain the reason for their chosen response.

Scenarios

An examination of similar studies using scenarios to examine individuals' perceptions of sexual assault revealed that scenarios were often developed and presented in a very non-personal, factual, third person manner (Buddie and Miller, 2001; Cowan, 2000). There was concern that this method may not capture the context in which sexual assault happens and was too far removed from "real-life" to capture individuals' actual perceptions in similar real life situations. In addition, there was concern that the results would further perpetuate the divide between research and the "real" world. Because of this, scenarios were developed by the researcher to allow for them to be presented in a more provocative manner such that they were as true to life as possible without adding confounding variables (see Appendix B for a complete listing of the scenarios used in the study). All scenarios were comprised of a perpetrator, a survivor, a form of forced sexual activity, a form of non-consent, and a context for the situation including the type of relationship between the survivor and perpetrator. These could be varied by systematically without loosing the form and structure of the scenario.

Influence of Relevant Variables

As it was hypothesized that there was a difference between individuals' global and situational perceptions of sexual assault, it was desirable to also examine the influence of various factors on individuals' assessment of a particular situation as outlined in the second research question. The variables selected were ***relationship type***, ***form of forced sexual activity***, ***form of non-consent***, and ***gender of survivor***. Although it would also have been interesting to test the influence of gender of perpetrator, it was not feasible without eliminating other factors and variables, which were felt to be more pertinent to the study.

As outlined in the following sections, both relationship type and form of forced sexual activity consisted of three categories to assess their influence while form of non-consent consisted of five categories and gender of survivor two. To fully assess the influence of each of these variables individually and in relation to each other on an individual's ability to define a situation as sexual assault or not, a total of ninety (3x3x5x2) scenarios would be needed. As it was not feasible to ask participants to consider such a large number of scenarios, a sample was drawn from all possible combinations based on the reasons outlined below, to gain some insight into the influence, if any, of these variables.

Relationship type and form of forced sexual activity.

In order to gain an accurate picture of the influence of relationship type and type of sexual activity, it was determined that there would need to be three categories in each variable.

For the relationship type, it was thought that individuals were less likely to define certain behaviors as sexual assault when the parties involved were in a relationship and/or knew each other as compared to strangers. Based on this hypothesis three categories were selected and defined as follows. For the purpose of this study the following definitions were used: 1) a stranger was defined as an individual that was completely unknown to the individual they were engaging in sexual activity with; 2) an acquaintance was identified as someone whom the individual she/he was engaging in sexual activity with recognized but was not in a relationship with; 3) a relationship was defined as an individual who had been involved with the person he/she was engaging in sexual activity with for at least six months.

It was believed that the form of forced sexual activity involved in a sexual assault greatly influenced whether an individual would define a certain situation as sexual assault or not. More specifically, it was thought that individuals were more likely to identify situations involving forced intercourse as sexual assault as compared to situations involving forced kissing/fondling and/or perhaps oral sex, which are often viewed as less invasive. To test this hypothesis, these three levels of sexual activity, all of which fit the legal definition of sexual assault as outlined in the Criminal Code of Canada[1](2000), were chosen.

As it was desirable to explore each of the three categories in both relationship type and form of forced sexual activity and their interactions, a complete 3 x 3 factorial design was applied (Table 1). Thus, nine scenarios were required.

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[1] "Sexual assault is an assault which is committed in circumstances of a sexual nature such that the sexual integrity of the victim is violated" (Criminal Code of Canada, Sec.271, 2000)

Table 1: Factorial design for testing the influence of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity

		Relationship Type		
		Stranger	Acquaintance	Relationship
Non-consensual Sexual Activity	Kissing/ Fondling			
	Oral Sex			
	Intercourse			

Form of non-consent.

The criminal code defines consent as, "a voluntary agreement to engage in the sexual activity in question." (Criminal Code of Canada, 273.1) The criminal code goes on to further define five specific situations in which consent is not or cannot be given which are:

1) If it is given by someone else
2) If the person is not capable of giving consent
3) If the accused abuses a position of power, trust, or authority
4) If the person says or implies "no" through words or behaviors
5) If the person changes her/his mind

From the legal definition of consent, five variables of non-consent were chosen, as outlined in Table 2. These five variables are based on clear or implied "no", change of mind, and being incapable of giving consent and were selected because it was felt that they were the situations where there would be the greatest controversy between individuals' perceptions.. In addition to this, we also looked at prior consent as defined by an individual who has already engaged in a certain sexual activity with a person in the past, which for the purpose of this study was limited to a relationship.

Forty-five scenarios would have been needed to fully assess the influence of form of non-consent and it's interaction with relationship type and form of forced sexual activity. As this was not feasible, an incomplete factorial design was used to test selected variables to glean some insight into the influence of form of non-consent. As the current literature has shown some evidence in the influence of relationship type on participants ability to define scenarios involving forced intercourse it was felt that examining relationship type in relation to form of non-consent would yield more easily comparable results (Buddie and Miller, 2001). As such, type of nonconsensual sexual activity was limited to sexual intercourse for this section. In addition, as it is commonly accepted that non-consent is clear in stranger sexual assaults, forms of non-consent were deemed to be more prominent in situations involving an acquaintance or a relationship. As such, the stranger category was also eliminated in this part of the study. The resulting incomplete 5x2 factorial design, as outlined in Table 2 was used to investigate the influence of form of non-consent on individuals' ability to define situations as sexual assault.

Table 2: Factorial design for testing the influence of form of non-consent and relationship type

		Relationship Type	
		Acquaintance	Relationship
Form of Non-Consent	Direct “‘no”		
	Implied “No”		
	Change of Mind		
	Prior Consent	▨	
	Not Capable (Alcohol)		

- Grey area indicates an omission
- For simplicity prior consent was reserved for a relationship in which the couple had engaged in sexual intercourse at sometime prior to the current situation.

Gender of survivor.

As survivors (individuals who were sexually assaulted) are traditionally viewed as female even though males can and have also experienced sexual assault it was desirable to examine the influence, if any, of gender of survivor on participants' responses. In order to examine the influence of this completely in relation to relationship type, form of forced sexual activity and form on non-consent a total of ninety scenarios would have been needed. Again, as this was not feasible, only two of all the possible combinations with respect to relationship type, type of nonconsensual sexual activity and form of non-consent were selected to be tested. Even though the exploration of this variable is limited, it was still felt that some testing of this factor was important and pertinent to the study and as such, the following variables were investigated as outlined in table 3.

For simplicity, only one type of relationship was selected for exploring the influence of the gender of survivor. As acquaintance sexual assault is the most common form of sexual assault that occurs, “acquaintance” was the category selected for relationship type to be tested. “Relationship” was also considered but not chosen, as there was some concern that having a male-on-male sexual assault in the context of a relationship would be influenced by individuals' views on same-sex relationships. As the study design in its current structure was not capable of controlling for this potential confounder, “relationship” was not selected. “Stranger” was not selected as it was felt that individuals are more likely identify situations involving strangers as sexual assault.

Recent research has shown that alcohol is an increasingly common factor in acquaintance and relationship sexual assaults, the role of which is not completely understood. Studies examining the influence of alcohol in sexual assaults and individuals' perceptions have found that many people place a great deal of blame on the survivor (Cowan, 2000; Abbey, 2002; Buddie and Miller,2001; Highby,2001). None of the studies to date examining the impact of alcohol on sexual assault have looked at the influence of the gender of the survivor. From personal field experience, it was thought that the role of alcohol in sexual assaults and survivor responsibility in situations involving alcohol would be different for male survivors than for female survivors.

Table 3: Gender of survivor variables to be tested

	Gender of Survivor	
Form of Non-Consent	**Male**	**Female**
Clear "No"		
Incapable (Alcohol)		

Analysis

M-ANOVAs and supplementary statistical tests were used to assess the influence of relationship type, form of forced sexual activity and form of non-consent on individuals' definition of scenarios, reported confidence, and assigned responsibility. Independent sample T-tests were used to assess the influence of gender of survivor.

The questions assessing survivor and offender responsibility asked participants to comment on the reason for their selected answer. These written responses were grouped into categories that were then used to create frequency distributions. To ensure coding reliability, two individuals read and scored the written responses separately, following which compatibility tests were conducted to ensure acceptable levels of agreement.

Instrument

A three-part questionnaire was developed consisting of three sections corresponding to the three areas of interest as outlined above (Personal background, Global perceptions, and Situational perceptions)(Appendix A). As sexual assault is a very sensitive and politically charged topic the questionnaire was designed such that it could be self-administered as it was felt this would ensure participant's anonymity and yield more honest responses.

Care was taken to organize the questionnaire in such a way that participants' responses would be least influenced by the previous section and/or questions. Questions used to assess individuals' situational background appeared first in the questionnaire followed by scenarios and questions used to assess situational perceptions of sexual assault. The last part of the questionnaire consisted of questions used to assess participants' global perceptions and personal exposure to sexual assault.

As outlined in Part 2 of the methods section, eighteen scenarios were created to examine participants' situational perceptions. Although it was felt a minimum of eighteen scenarios were needed to assess the desired variables as outlined in the research questions, it was still too many to ask each participant to consider and comment on. It was felt that the maximum number of scenarios an individual participant could examine and comment on before becoming fatigued was six and as such each participant received six of the eighteen scenarios. As each participant only received six of the eighteen scenarios, three forms of the questionnaire varying only in the scenarios given were needed to examine all eighteen scenarios. As a total of nine scenarios were selected to examine the influence of relationship type and form of sexual activity, each participant received three of the possible nine scenarios (Table 4). The remaining three scenarios were randomly selected from the remaining nine scenarios, which targeted the influence of form of non-consent and gender of survivor (Table 5).

Table 4: Scenarios developed to examine the influences of and interaction between relationship type and form of forced sexual activity

Scenario #	Relationship Type	Form of Forced Sexual Activity
1	Stranger	Kissing/fondling
2	Stranger	Oral Sex
3	Stranger	Sexual intercourse
4	Acquaintance	Kissing/fondling
5	Acquaintance	Oral sex
6	Acquaintance	Sexual intercourse
7	Relationship	Kissing/fondling
8	Relationship	Oral sex
9	Relationship	Sexual intercourse

Table 5: Scenarios developed to examine the influences of relationship type, form of non-consent, and survivor gender

Scenario #	Relationship Type	Form of Non-consent	Survivor Gender
10	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Female
11	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Male
12	Acquaintance	Change of mind	Female
13	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Female
14	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Male
15	Relationship	Alcohol	Female
16	Relationship	Change mind	Female
17	Relationship	Prior Consent	Female
18	Relationship	Implied "no"	Female

Control for Order Effects

There was also some concern about the influence of the order in which participants received the scenarios, especially as no participant was receiving all of the scenarios. In order to control and test for this, a Latin Square design was employed to systematically assign scenarios such that order effects could be controlled for (Kirk, 1968). From the Latin Square design, it was determined that a total of nine arrangements were needed to test for order effects. As such, six forms of the questionnaire, identified as Form A, Form B, Form C, Form D, Form E, and Form F, were developed and distributed to participants (Table 6).

Table 6: Breakdown of scenarios distributed to participants based on form

Scenario Order	Form	Relationship Type	Form of Non-consent	Type of Forced Sexual Activity
1	A/D	Stranger	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling
1	B/F	Stranger	Verbal/Implied « no"	Oral Sex
1	C/E	Stranger	Verbal/Implied " no"	Sexual intercourse
2	B/E	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied " no"	Kissing/fondling
2	C/D	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex
2	A/F	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
3	C/F	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling
3	A/E	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex
3	B/D	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
4	A	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
4	B/D	Acquaintance	Change of mind	Sexual intercourse
4	C/E	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
4	F	Relationship	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	F	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	A/E	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	B/D	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
5	C	Relationship	Prior Consent	Sexual intercourse
6	B/F	Relationship	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
6	A/E	Relationship	Change mind	Sexual intercourse
6	D	Relationship	Prior Consent	Sexual intercourse
6	C	Relationship	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse

Data Collection

Participants for the study were obtained by approaching professors and requesting entry into their classes for a minimum of thirty minutes to enable the distribution and completion of the questionnaire (See Appendix C for recruitment letter). As subject recruitment and data collection were done so near the end of term there was concern that a random sample representative of the university population would not be possible. In the event that this occurred and statistically significant differences were found between faculties, the results from each department would be adjusted according to their assigned weight.

Participants were briefed on the purpose of the study, assured that their participation was completely voluntary, and asked to use the time allotted to complete the questionnaire (Appendix C: Briefing). All participants were randomly given one of six forms, which differed only in the scenarios (Appendix B: Scenarios). Once the questionnaire was completed, each participant was given a debriefing sheet that addressed the rational behind the study and provided a list of resources in the event that the participant had questions about the issue, was experiencing some upsetting feelings, and/or just wanted to discuss the survey (Appendix C: Debriefing).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Five hundred and seventy-five questionnaires were distributed during the course of data collection and 551 were completed yielding a 96% response rate. It is likely that the high response rate is due to the fact that participants were given time during class to complete the survey and were able to give the completed questionnaire directly to the researcher once completing it.

Part I: Personal Background

Three hundred and sixty-six (66.4%) of the participants were female and 59% (n=323) were under the age of 20. Over 70% of participants spent the majority of their life living in an area with a population either greater than 120,000 (43.4%, n=239) or less than 10,000 (31.9%, n=176), while the remaining spent the majority of their life in an area with a population between 10,000 and 120,000 (24.3%, n=134).

The median income bracket of participants' parents' income before tax deduction was $60,000 to $79,999 (n=120), and the median income of the participants' income before tax deductions was less than $20,000 (n=487). The majority of participants indicated they were either Christian (55.6%, n=304) or not religious (32.2%, n=243), with the remaining 12.2% (n=67) being either Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, or "other".

The faculties in which participants were enrolled at the time of the study are described in Table 5. The largest group of participants is from the sciences (36.3%, n=200) followed by Physical Education and Recreation (20.3%, n=112), and Pharmacy (16.7%, n=92). This sample is not representative of the faculty distribution of students at the University of Alberta as can be seen by the fact that only 9.8% (n=54) of participants were Arts students when we know that over 40% of the students at the University of Alberta are registered in the Arts. As no statistically significant differences were found in the results from different faculties, it was not necessary to adjust the results based on faculty. As can be seen from table 6, the largest group of participants were in their first year (55.4%,n=305) and the second largest group were in their second year (23.0%, n=127) at the University during the time of the study.

Table 7: Faculty Distribution

Faculty	Number of Participants	% of Total Participants
Agriculture	22	4.0
Arts	54	9.8
Education	38	6.9
Engineering	29	5.3
Pharmacy	92	16.7
Physical Education and Recreation	112	20.3
Science	200	36.3
Other	4	0.7
Total	551	100 %

Table 8: Current Year at the University of Alberta

Current Year	Number of Participants	% of Total Participants
First	305	55.4
Second	127	23.0
Third	69	12.5
Fourth or more	50	9.1
Total	551	100 %

In regards to participants' personal exposure or personal experience with sexual assault, one hundred and fifty-seven (28.5%) individuals indicated that they had experienced some form of unwanted sexual activity since the age of 16, 14% (n=78) of which defined it as sexual assault. Almost fifty percent (47.5%, n=261) of individuals indicated that they knew someone who had been sexually assaulted of which 40% (n=103) indicated they were "very close" to the individual. In addition to personally experiencing sexual assault or knowing someone who has been sexually assaulted, two hundred and ninety-one (53%) of the participants indicated they had attended or participated in some form of workshop or presentation about sexual assault.

Part II: Global Perceptions of Sexual Assault

Definitions

Sexual Assault

The Criminal Code of Canada states that sexual assault is, "an assault which is committed in circumstances of a sexual nature such that the sexual integrity of the victim is violated" (Criminal Code of Canada, 2000). With the exception of child sexual abuse, which also includes exhibitionism and exposure to pornography or other sexually related materials and behaviors, sexual assault is limited to physical contact (Wells, 1990). Eleven sexual behaviors that fit either the legal definitions of sexual assault or sexual harassment[2] as outlined by the Criminal Code of Canada and the Human Rights Citizenship and Commission were selected as shown in Figure 1 (Criminal Code of Canada, 2000; Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, 1997). Participants were asked to indicate which of the sexual behaviors when forced were sexual assault, the results of which are outlined in Figure 1. The findings suggest that participants in this study are generally aware of the legal definition of sexual assault. Participants were least likely to define a situation involving nonconsensual kissing (68%, n=372) as sexual assault as compared to the other behaviors involving of sexual contact, which over 90% (n>503) of participants identified as sexual assault.

"Grabbing and pinching" fall into the gray area between sexual assault and sexual harassment. Although these behaviors technically fit the definition of sexual assault, they are often defined as sexual harassment (Verberg *et al*, 2000). In light of this, it is surprising that 92% (n=503) of participants defined these behaviors as sexual assault. It was expected that the results would be closer to 50% pointing to the confusion between sexual assault and sexual harassment.

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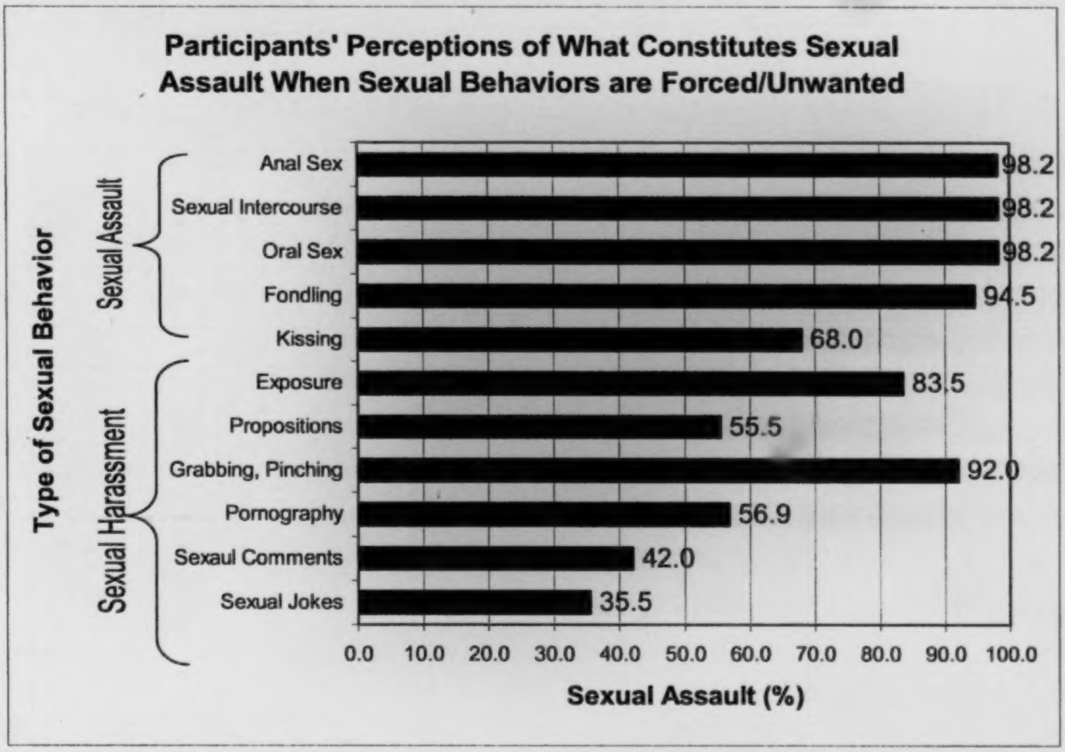
[2] Sexual harassment is unwanted, often coercive, sexual behaviour directed by one person toward another (Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, 1997).

Figure 1: Participants' perceptions of the definition of sexual assault



Although participants were able to identify the sexual behaviors that corresponded with the legal definition of sexual assault, many also deemed several other sexual behaviors as sexual assault. These other sexual behaviors, such as sexual jokes, sexual comments, pornography, propositions, and exposure fall under the definition of sexual harassment as outlined by the Human Rights Commission (1997). These results are similar to those found by Wilson (2000) who also found that there was a great deal of overlap between individual's definitions of sexual assault and sexual harassment. From these results is it appears that participants are unsure about the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment, although it is unclear as to why this is. Further research is required to determine whether participants are unaware or unclear about the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment or whether there is something else at play.

Some may question the harm in individuals identifying certain sexual behaviors as sexual assault when they are sexual harassment. The concern here is twofold, the first of which being that sexual assault is a criminal violation and sexual harassment is a human rights violation, the complaint and disciplinary processes of each being very different (Criminal Code of Canada, Sec 271.1, 2000; Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, 2000). Secondly, sexual harassment is generally viewed as less serious and personally devastating than sexual assault, even though this may not necessarily be the case (O'Donohue, 1997). Because of this belief, without a clear understanding of the differences between sexual assault and sexual harassment, individuals may think certain behaviors, which are sexual assault, are sexual harassment and therefore, view them as less serious. An alternative to this, and equally as problematic, is that individuals may feel that the definition of sexual assault is too broad and create their own lines between what is serious and what is not, which could lead to a minimization and/or denial of survivor's experiences.

Consent

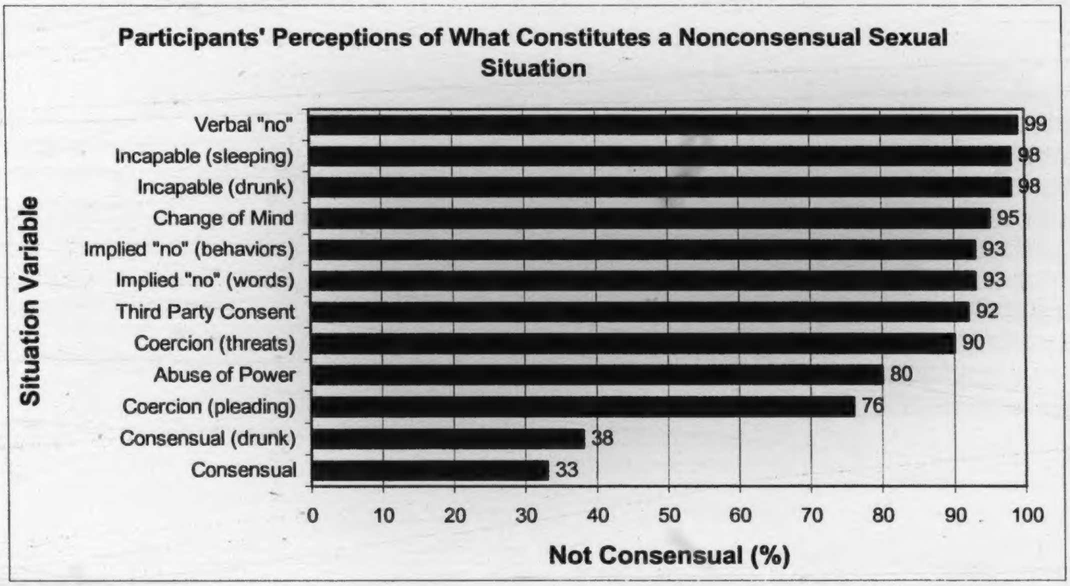
As a means for determining participants' perceptions on what constitutes consensual sexual activity, participants were asked to look at 12 situations derived from the consent law and indicate whether the given situation was consensual as outlined in Figure 2 (See questions 8, Questionnaire, in Appendix A for the complete text of the 12 situations).

Participants were generally able to identify the various situations that were legally deemed to be not consensual, the lowest endorsation being applied to coercion at 76% (n=416) (Figure 2). The results indicate that participants were more likely to identify a situation as non-consensual when the form of non-consent was very blatant such as the case of someone saying "no" (99%, n=541) or being incapable of giving consent (98% n=537).

Of all the situations that were deemed to be non-consensual according to the Criminal Code (2000), participants were least likely to identify a situation as non-consensual when coercion was involved (76%, n=416). This is not surprising given that coercion is based on the use of indirect force such as threats, intimidation, pressure and/or manipulation to get the party involved to do something that she/he does not want to do (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 2000). As the force is indirect, the use of coercion may lead individuals (including the coerced party) to think the situation was consensual. This may be why participants were least likely to identify situations involving coercion as sexual assault.

Most interesting is that less than 70% (n=383) of participants selected "consent" in both situations involving consensual sexual activity. As the first consensual situation involved two parties, both of which had been drinking, we might expect to see some confusion over whether the situation is consensual or not (62%, n=340). However, in the second consensual situation, which involved a blatant form of consent where the initiator was kissed in return, participants were only marginally more likely to identify the situation as consensual (67%, n=367). This later situation is viewed as a very common and accepted means of engaging in sexual activity in our culture and as such, it was surprising that only 67% defined the situations as consensual. Further studies are needed to determine whether or not participants' responses to the two consensual situations are really a reflection of their beliefs, a reflection of the halo effect, or something else.

Figure 2: Participants' perceptions of what constitutes a nonconsensual sexual situation



Prevalence of Sexual Assault

Women and Men

When asked about the estimated percentage of women and men who will be sexually assaulted at some point in their life, the average estimates were 47% for women and 22% for men. This translates to a prevalence rate of approximately 1in 2 women and 1 in 5 men that will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime. These results indicate that the majority of participants feel women are approximately 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than men, which is in agreement with the results offered by the FBI from the United States which indicate that women are two times more likely to be sexually assaulted than men (Rennison, 1999).

In addition to lifetime prevalence, participants were also asked to consider the percentage of women and men who would be assaulted as an adult. Participants estimated that 53% of sexual assaults among women and 40% of sexual assault among men happen over the age of 18. This is consistent with the current literature, which reports that men are slightly more likely to be sexually assaulted in childhood than adulthood as compared to women where no such difference appears to be present (Rennison, 1999; Bagley, 1984; Warshaw, 1988, Statistics Canada, 1993).

What is surprising about the estimated lifetime prevalence rates found in this study is that they are almost twice the rates reported by the FBI as shown in table 9 and much higher than other reported prevalence rates (Koss *et al*, 1993; Bagley, 1984; DeKeserdy *et al*, 1993; Statistics Canada, 1993; Warshaw, 1988). Despite their much higher estimated prevalence rates, participants' responses are in agreement with the FBI's reported prevalence rates in terms of women being assaulted almost twice as frequently as men.

Table 9: Participants' estimated prevalence rates as compared to FBI reported rates

Perceived Prevalence	FBI Reported Prevalence
47% Women (1 in 2)	25 % Women (1 in 4)
22% Men (1 in 5)	12.5 % Men (1 in 8)

Because of the sensitive nature of the issue of sexual assault and the fact that not all individuals appropriately define their experiences as sexual assault, it is likely that the reported prevalence rates are underestimates of the true lifetime prevalence rates. This could partially explain why participants estimated higher lifetime prevalence rates than currently reported rates. As the difference between participants' estimated prevalence rates and reported prevalence rates are almost double, it is likely that there are also other factors at work. It is possible that participants were unsure of the actual prevalence rates of sexual assault among men and women and were guessing. Because the rates reported are high, it could be that participants felt that sexual assault happens more often than they thought and as such they inflated their initial responses. Participants may also have based their response on the number of people they know who have already been sexually assaulted. Whatever the reason it is clear that participants are unsure of lifetime prevalence rates of sexual assault among men and women and that they feel sexual assault happens more often than the reported lifetime prevalence rates would indicate.

Acquaintance Sexual Assault

Participants indicated that they felt 75% of all sexual assaults were committed by an acquaintance. This is a little lower than results found in the current literature, which report that acquaintance assaults comprise between 83% to over 93% of all sexual assaults (Statistics Canada, 1993; LoVerso, 2000). Despite being lower than reported rates, participants still indicated that the majority of sexual assaults are acquaintance sexual assaults.

Seriousness of Sexual Assault

Ninety-three percent (n=497) of the participants indicated that they felt sexual assault was an "extremely" or "very serious" offence (Figure 3). Four hundred and forty-six participants (80%) wrote explanations for their chosen answer, which were grouped by two readers (X^2=48, df=5, p<0.001) into the six thematic categories presented in Figure 4(See Seriousness of Sexual Assault in Appendix D for selected written responses in each category). Fifty-four percent (n=241) of all participants indicated they felt the reason for the seriousness of sexual assault was that it was a "violation of personal rights". Participants also pointed to "physical and psychological impact" (28%, n=125) and "lasting impact" (17%, n=76) as reasons for the seriousness of sexual assault. Only 5% (n=22) of all respondents felt that the seriousness of sexual assault was "dependent on the situation". From the results, it is clear that participants feel sexual assault is a very serious offence, the reason for which lies in its impact on the survivor and the fact that it is seen as a personal violation.

Figure 3: Participants' ratings of the seriousness of sexual assault.

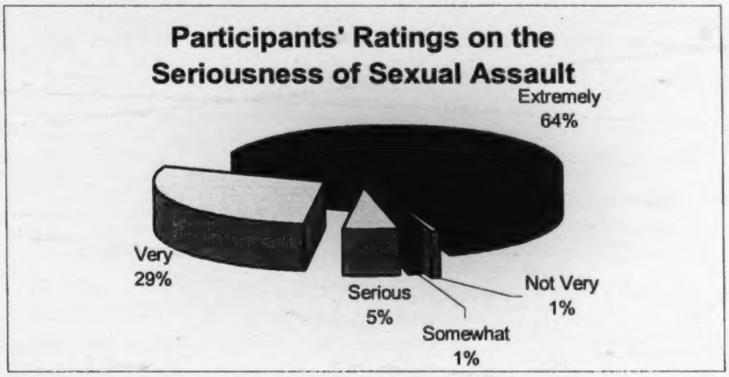
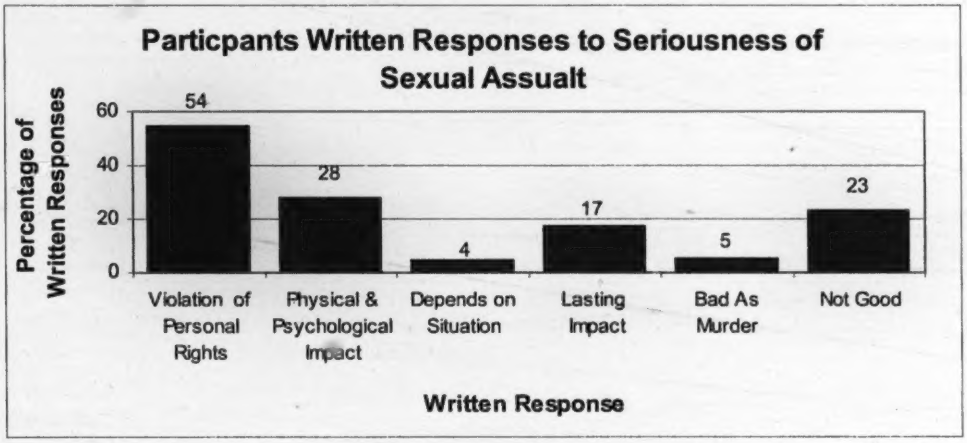


Figure 4: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to the seriousness of sexual assault



Cause of Sexual Assault

The cause(s) of sexual assault has been greatly debated by many, especially in the last 20 years (Cowan, 2000; Polaschek, Ward and Hudson, 1997). Some individuals have posited that there are several reasons why an individual would sexually assault another while others have suggested that there is only one reason that an individual would sexually assault another. Among the many reasons proposed are a miscommunication or misunderstanding of the situation, being mentally ill or unstable, having been personally sexually assaulted, not being able to control own sexual urges, and/or wanting to feel powerful (Cowman, 2000). Although there are undoubtedly some individuals who sexually assault others solely because of a mental illness, a prominent theory in the literature suggests that the cause or motivation for sexual assault and sexual abuse is the sense of power that comes from being able to overpower someone and control them (Lonsway and Fitzegerald, 1994).

To assess participants' perceptions of why offenders sexually assault others, participants were asked to answer an open-ended question on what they felt caused an individual to sexually assault another. Responses provided by eighty-six percent (n=474) of all participants were grouped into seven thematic categories by two separate readers ($x^2 = 76$, df=6, $p<0.001$) and quantified to give the distribution seen in Figures 5 and 6 (See Cause of Sexual Assault in Appendix D for selected written responses within each category).

Figure 5: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to the causes of sexual assault

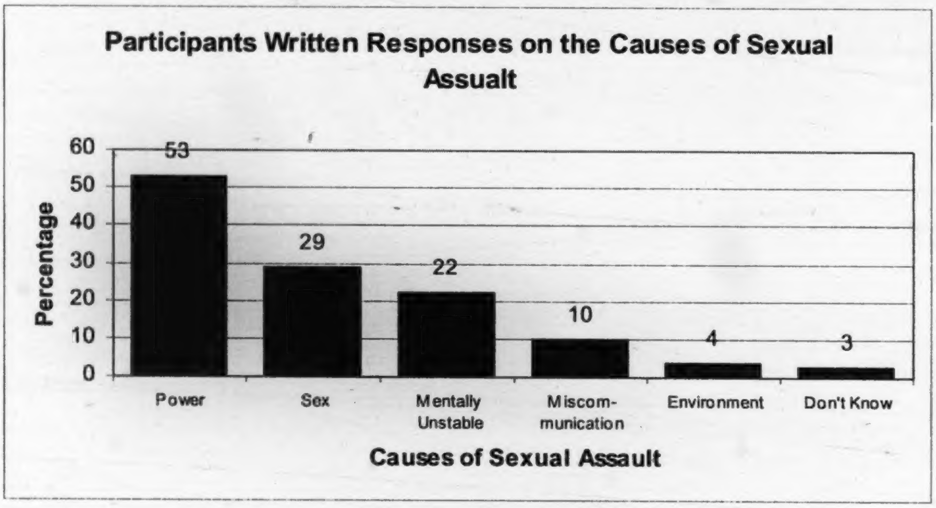
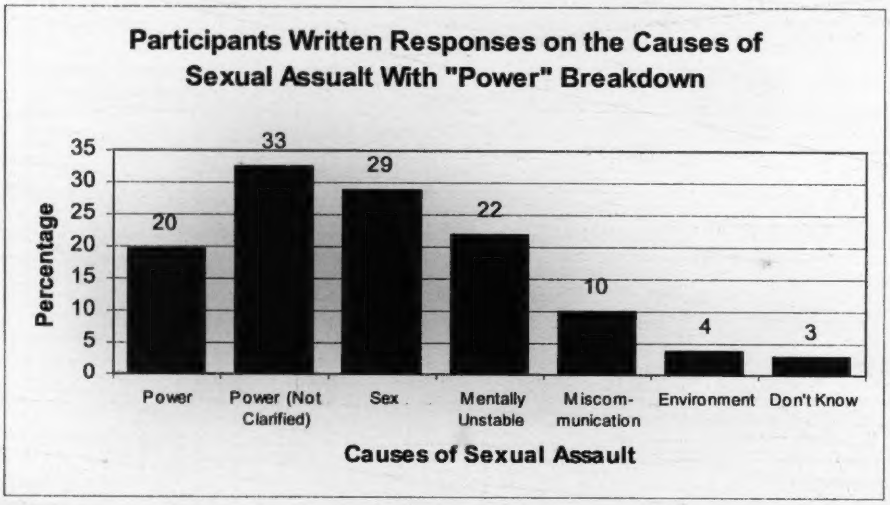


Figure 6: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to the causes of sexual assault



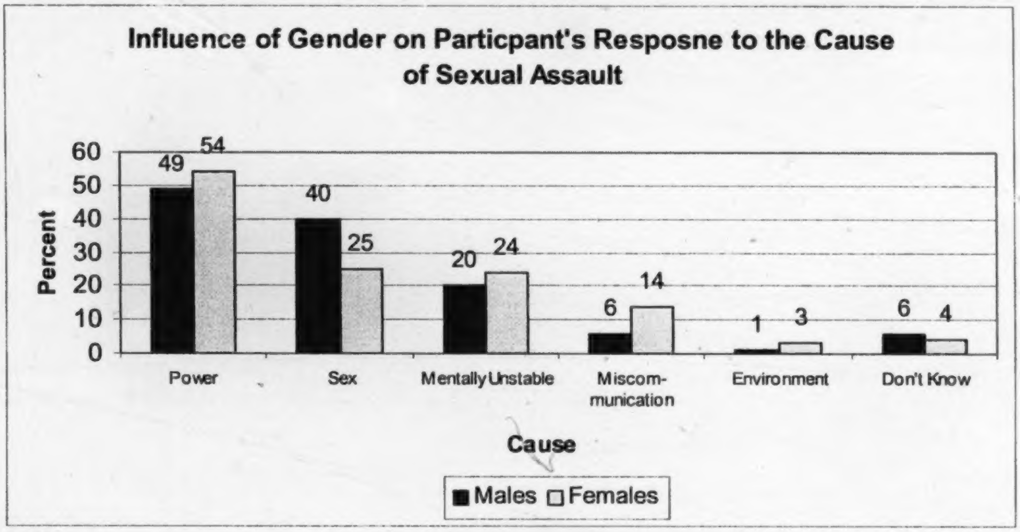
Over half (53%, n=251) of all written responses mentioned that offenders sexually assault others because of a need for "power". In addition, participants also cited "sex" (29%, n=137) as described by the inability of the offender to control her/himself sexually and/or gain access to consensual sex as another reason for why someone might sexually assault another. Twenty-two percent (n=104) of participants also indicated that they felt some individuals commit sexual assault because they are "mentally unstable" which included offenders having been sexually assaulted/abused, having come from dysfunctional families, having low self-esteem, and not feeling loved. As several studies have found that people believe miscommunication to be one of the main causes of acquaintance sexual assault it was surprising that only 10% (n=47) of respondents mentioned "miscommunication" or "misunderstanding" as a cause for sexual assault (Koss and Harvey, 1991; Bechhofer and Parrot, 1991; Abbey 1991).

While compiling participants written responses it was noticed that some participants provided an explanation of "power", while others did not, and others still listed additional causes for sexual assault such as misunderstanding, sexual frustration, being too drunk, being mentally unstable, being abused, etc. In order to accept the theory that sexual assault is caused by a drive and/or need for power, as presented in the literature, it is not possible to attribute sexual assault to other causes. The only exception to this being a mental illness such as pedophilia, which incidentally was not mentioned in any of the written responses. Due to the different types of responses involving power there was some concern about the understanding of role of "power" in sexual assault and as such, participants' responses indicating "power" were separated into two categories as outlined in Figure 6.

Only 20% (n=95) of the respondents who indicated "power" provided an explanation that indicated they understood power to be the primary motivation behind sexual assault. The remaining 33% (n=156) of participants either did not offer any indication of an understanding of "power" or included other incompatible causes such as miscommunication, mentally unstable, sexually frustrated, etc. Although it is possible that those indicating "power" without any explanation understand that power is the primary motivation in sexually assault, it may be also be that individuals just wrote what they have heard circulated in the media, without really understanding what it means. Evidence for the latter may be seen in the responses of participants who mentioned "power" along with other contradictory causes such as "sex", "mental instability", "miscommunication", and/or "environment". In any event, it is not clear that more than 20% of participants understand how sexual assault is motivated by a drive for power.

A Chi square test revealed that there were significant differences between male and female participant responses (X^2=126, df=6, p=0.003). Interestingly, females (25%, n=48) were significantly less likely to cite "sex" as a cause for sexual assault as compared to males (40%, n=35). Excluding the two categories of "power" from Figure 7 it can be seen that females were more likely to indicate reasons outside of the offenders control such as "mentally unstable" , "miscommunication", and/or "environment". Males however, were more likely to point to "sex" as the second largest cause for sexual assault. These differences are interesting in that they both offer excuses for the offenders' behavior, while at the same time focusing on very different mitigating factors. Further studies may be useful in determining whether these differences are a result of gender socialization, the endorsement of the stereotypical sexual assault involving a female survivor and male offender, or something else altogether different.

Figure 7: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to the causes of sexual assault as sorted by gender

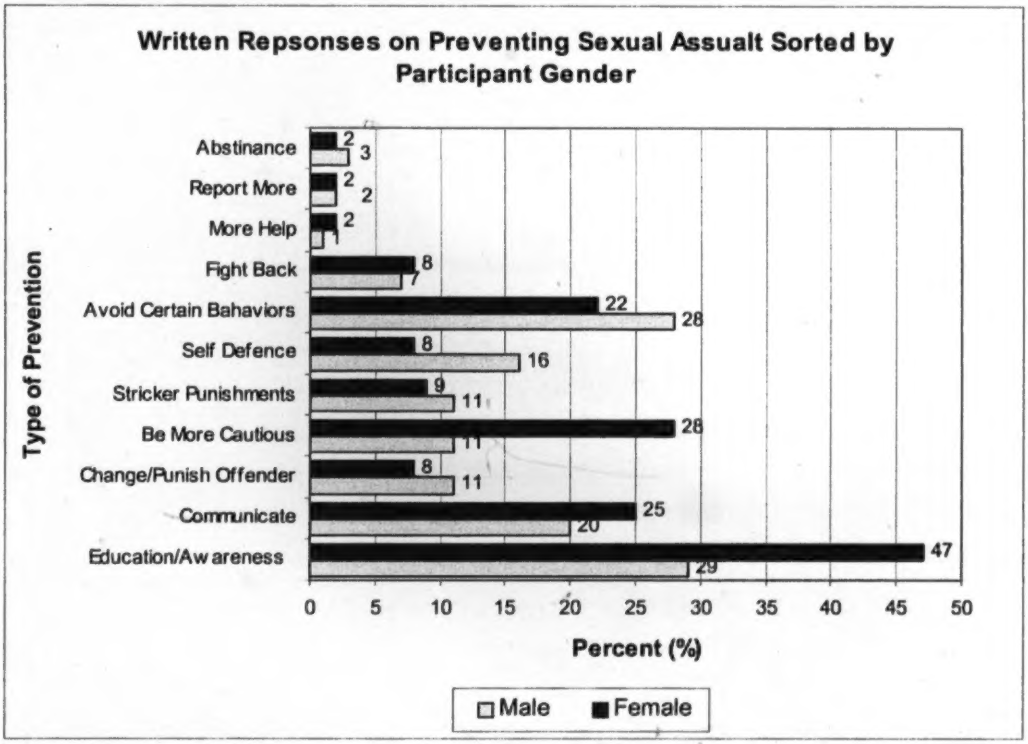


Prevention

Since the emergence of sexual assault as a prevalent issue in our society in the early eighties and an acknowledgement of the devastating impact that sexual assault can have on a survivor, there has been an outpouring of ideas on how sexual assault can be prevented. In addition to creating awareness and educating individuals on the definition and causes of sexual assault, many of these ideas have been directed towards women and are given in the form of "what to do" and "what not to do" (Ullman, 2002; Schwartz, 1993). Examples of these "tips" are avoiding being out alone at night, not dressing or acting "provocatively", not drinking excessively, not interacting with strangers, always traveling with friends, communicating clearly, always be on your guard, and taking a self-defense class. "Tips", if any, directed towards men are often focused on not committing sexual assault (Berkowitz, 2002).

To gain insight into participants' perceptions on how sexual assault can be prevented, participants were asked an open-ended question on what they thought could be done to prevent sexual assault. Responses to this were provided by eighty-six percent (n=474) of all participants. These were grouped into eleven thematic categories by two separate readers (X^2=103, df=10, p<0.001) and quantified to give the distribution seen in Figure 8 (See Prevention in Appendix D for selected written responses within each category). Thirty-eight percent of participants (n=187) indicated that education and awareness, specifically information on the definition of sexual assault, was needed in order to prevent sexual assault. Other major means of prevention were to "avoid certain behaviors" (27%, n=133) such as dressing provocatively, drinking, flirting, and/or acting seductively, "be more cautious" (23%, n=113), and to "communicate clearly" when engaging in sexual activity (23%, n=113). Only 19% (n=94) of participants felt that prevention of sexual assault rested on altering offender behavior (i.e. "up to offender" and "stricter punishments").

Figure 8: Thematic summary of participants' written responses on the prevention of sexual assault



Females (28%, n=91) were significantly more likely (X^2=187, df=10, p<0.001) to mention, "being more cautious" as a means of preventing sexual assault than males (11%, n=16). As it is perceived that women are more at risk of being sexually assaulted then men and the majority of prevention tips which are largely directed at women involve avoidance behaviors, it makes sense that more women would mention "being more cautious" and focus on the potential victims' behavior.

Aside from "education and awareness", the majority of participants' ideas for preventing sexual assault are focused on the behaviors or actions of survivors, sending the message that participants feel prevention or avoidance of sexual assault ultimately lies in the survivors hands. Further, focusing on things one can do to avoid being sexually assaulted suggests that offenders are unable to control themselves and/or sexual assaults happen because of miscommunication. Further, as these prevention ideas either address women directly and/or are things that are often only said to women (i.e. don't dress provocatively, fight back, don't flirt, be more cautious, etcetera), we are given the impression that men are not sexually assaulted.

Part III: Situational Perceptions of Sexual Assault

Scenarios describing various situations of sexual assault were used to assess participants' situational perceptions of sexual assault. Each participant was given six of eighteen scenarios and was asked to answer the following questions.

1) In general, what would you consider the above situation to be the case of?
    Select from "normal sexual activity", "miscommunication", "sexual harassment", "sexual assault" or "rape"

2) How sure are you with your selected response?
    Select from "very unsure", "unsure", "somewhat sure", "sure", or "very sure"

3) How responsible is the survivor for what happened? Why?
    Select from "not responsible", "a little responsible", "somewhat responsible", "mostly responsibly", or "entirely responsible"

4) How responsible is the offender for what happened? Why?
    Select from "not responsible", "a little responsible", "somewhat responsible", "mostly responsibly", or "entirely responsible".

In each of the three scales used, responses were deemed linear in their progression from least to most. As such, responses for each question were given values from 1 to 5 based on increasing severity with 1 being the lowest severity and 5 being the highest. There may be some debate over whether or not there is a linear difference between "sexual assault" and "rape" because the two terms are often considered interchangeable. It was thought, however that many people still reserve the term "rape" for situations they determine to be most severe. As such, sexual assault was given a value of "4" and rape a value of "5".

Form Equality Testing

As stated in the methods section, six forms of the questionnaire were distributed, which differed only in the six of eighteen scenarios chosen. The purpose of this was to determine whether the results received were truly based on the scenarios and not a product of placement or order within the questionnaire. T-tests were conducted between matching scenarios to determine if there was an order effect (Table 10). No statistically significant differences were found between any of the matching scenarios and as such, the six combinations were reduced to three and the results presented will be presented based on the scenarios only and not the forms.

Table 10: Form equality t-test results

Scenario		Form	Mean Difference (+/-)	Standard Error Difference (+/-)	df	Significance (p<0.01)
Stranger	Kissing/Fondling	A1, D1	0.0667	0.06321	178	0.29
	Oral Sex	B1, F1	0.0632	0.7782	185	0.42
	Intercourse	C1, E1	0.0846	0.4699	184	0.07
Acquaintance	Kissing/Fondling	B2, E2	0.0303	0.1176	185	0.8
	Oral Sex	C2, D2	0.2074	0.1508	182	0.17
	Intercourse	A2, F2	0.5111	0.2197	178	0.02
Relationship	Kissing/Fondling	C3, F3	0.0544	0.1516	182	0.72
	Oral Sex	A3, E3	0.185	0.1354	180	0.17
	Intercourse	B3, D3	0.3813	0.2033	182	0.06
Acquaintance	Male	A5, E5	0.0838	0.0822	180	0.3
	Male Alcohol	B5, D5	0.1085	0.06738	180	0.11
	Female Alcohol	C4, E4	0.1037	0.1333	184	0.44
	Implied "no"	A4, F5	0.2897	0.3199	180	0.21
	Change Mind	B4, D4	0.5163	0.2005	180	0.11
Relationship	Prior Consent	C5, D6	0.3989	0.5365	178	0.02
	Change Mind*	A6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Implied "no"	C6, F4	0.1101	0.1366	178	0.52
	Female Alcohol	B6, F6	0.0306	0.7728	185	0.69

* Due to an error in printing, relationship-change of mind scenario was only printed on one form.

Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Sexual Activity

Q1: Definition of Scenario - "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Table 11 summarizes participants' responses to the nine scenarios dealing with relationship type and form of sexual activity. As previously discussed the responses in the three scales used were deemed linear in their progression from least to most and as such corresponding values of 1 (least severe) to 5 (most severe) were given to each response. As the data were quantified, the means presented represent the average response of participants. Because the data are ordinal, all values with anything greater than or equal to 0.5 after the decimal place will be rounded up to the next category. Further, as all scenarios met the legal definition of sexual assault, any mean of or over 3.5 will be taken to indicate that the majority of individuals correctly defined the scenario as "sexual assault" or "rape".

Table 11: Participants' responses to, "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Scenario			**Distribution**				
			Normal (1)	**Miscom-munication (2)**	**Sexual Harassment (3)**	**Sexual Assault (4)**	**Rape (5)**
From of Sexual Activity	**Relationship Type**	**Mean ± SD**	**% *(n)***	**% *(n)***	**% *(n)***	**% *(n)***	**% *(n)***
Kissing/Fondling	Stranger	3.9 ± 0.42	0 *()*	1 *(2)*	11 *(20)*	84 *(152)*	3 *(6)*
	Acquaintance	3.28 ± 0.80	2 *(3)*	17 *(31)*	35 *(65)*	47 *(87)*	1 *(1)*
	Relationship	2.25 ± 1.03	26 *(48)*	38 *(70)*	22 *(41)*	12 *(22)*	2 *(3)*
Oral Sex	Stranger	4.43 ± 0.53	0 *()*	1 *(1)*	0 *()*	55 *(102)*	44 *(82)*
	Acquaintance	3.21 ± 1.02	8 *(15)*	16 *(30)*	25 *(45)*	48 *(88)*	3 *(5)*
	Relationship	2.92 ± 0.92	8 *(14)*	21 *(39)*	44 *(80)*	25 *(46)*	2 *(3)*
Intercourse	Stranger	4.94 ± 0.32	0 *()*	1 *(1)*	1 *(1)*	4 *(7)*	95 *(177)*
	Acquaintance	3.99 ± 1.49	9 *(16)*	27 *(48)*	3 *(6)*	16 *(28)*	46 *(82)*
	Relationship	3.44 ± 1.39	7 *(12)*	41 *(76)*	8 *(15)*	16 *(30)*	28 *(51)*

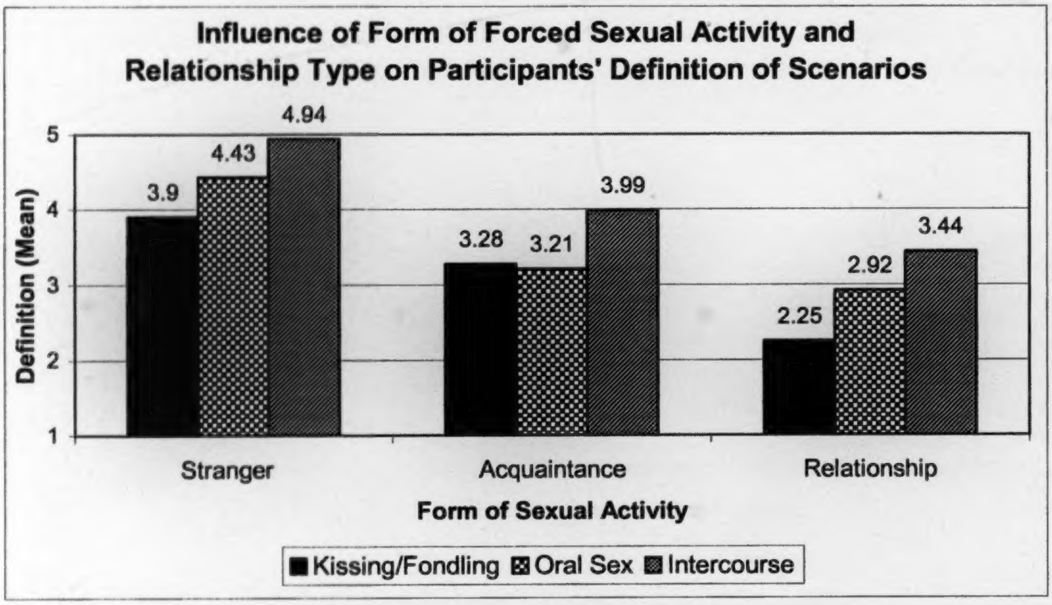
Participants were most likely to define scenarios involving a stranger and forced intercourse as "sexual assault" or "rape" (4.94 ± 0.32), and least likely to define scenarios involving a relationship and forced kissing/fondling (2.25 ± 1.03) as such. Scenarios involving a stranger all had means greater than 3.5 indicating that the majority of participants identified these situations as "sexual assault" or "rape". This however was not found to be the case in acquaintance or relationship scenarios. In relationship scenarios none of the scenarios had a mean over 3.5 and only one acquaintance scenario involving forced intercourse (3.99 ± 1.49) had a mean over 3.5. This indicates that the majority of participants did not define scenarios involving an acquaintance or relationship as sexual assault regardless of forced sexual activity.

M-ANOVA tests revealed that there are significant differences between relationship type and form of sexual activity in relation to participants' definition of scenarios (Table 12). An examination of the mean distribution in Figure 9 reveals that relationship type is the primary influence on participants' responses. Form of forced sexual activity, although still significant, is secondary in magnitude. Overall, participants' were significantly more likely to define a situation as "sexual assault" or "rape" as the form of sexual activity increased in degree of invasiveness from forced kissing/fondling to forced oral sex to forced intercourse. In the case of relationship type, participants were significantly less likely to define situations as "sexual assault" or "rape" as the familiarity between both parties increased from stranger to acquaintance to relationship.

Table 12: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on participant's definition of scenarios

Variable Tested	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Forced Sexual Activity	162.3	2	81.1	88.4	<0.001
Relationship Type	762.1	2	381.0	415.0	<0.001
Relationship Type X Form of Sexual Activity	37.8	4	9.5	10.3	<0.001
Error	1507.5	1642	0.918		

Figure 9: Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Sexual Activity on Participants' Definition of Scenarios



Post Hoc Tukey tests were used for a more in-depth exploration of the influence that relationship type and form of forced sexual activity had on participants' definitions of scenarios (Tables 13 and 14). In the case of relationship type, when the form of sexual activity was held constant, relationship types were found to be significantly different from each other in all cases. The different forms of forced sexual activity were also found to be statistically different from each other in all but two cases. No significant difference was found between acquaintance scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling and acquaintance scenarios involving forced oral sex. A closer look at the distribution in Table 9 reveals that participants' responses to scenarios involving acquaintances and forced kissing/fondling or forced oral sex were similar. About one-half of participants (41%,n=75 to 52%, n=96) selected either "miscommunication" or "sexual harassment" as compared to the acquaintance and forced intercourse scenario where the majority defined the scenario as "sexual assault/rape" (62%, n=110). It appears that the majority of participants viewed acquaintance scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling or forced oral sex in a similar manner.

The second case where no significant difference was found to exist between forms of forced sexual activity was in relationship scenarios involving forced oral sex and relationship scenarios involving forced intercourse. Unlike the first case, this second case points to the fact that participants' view forced oral sex and forced intercourse similarly in relationship scenarios. The distribution (Table 11) reveals that although relationships involving forced oral sex or forced intercourse have similar means (2.92 and 3.44 respectively) they do not have similar distributions. The relationship scenario involving forced intercourse has a bimodal distribution with "miscommunication" being defined 41% (n=76) of the time and "sexual assault/rape" being defined 44% (n=80) of the time while the relationship scenario involving forced oral sex has a more normal distribution with the peak being around "sexual harassment" (44%, n=80).

Of final note is that the forms of forced sexual activity were found to be statistically different from each other in scenarios involving strangers even though the majority of these scenarios were defined as either "sexual assault" or "rape". In addition, as form of forced sexual activity increased in invasiveness from forced kissing/fondling to forced intercourse, participants were more likely to define the scenario as "rape" (3%, n=6 to 95%, n=177) as compared to sexual assault (84%, n=152 to 4%, n=7). Further, it can be concluded that "rape" is not reserved only for situations involving forced penetration as forty-four percent of stranger scenarios involving forced intercourse were defined as "rape". Although the exact distinction between the use of sexual assault and rape cannot be determined from this study, these findings support the proposed theory that "sexual assault" and "rape" are still viewed differently enough to warrant separation.

In conclusion, the results from question one point to the fact that the majority of participants still adhere primarily to the traditional understanding of sexual assault, which involves a stranger and forced intercourse. The further the scenarios deviated from the traditional sexual assault, in either relationship type or form of forced sexual activity, the less likely participants were to define the scenario as "sexual assault" or "rape".

Table 13: Tukey HSD tests on the influence of relationship type on participants' definition of scenarios

Form of Forced Sexual Activity	Case 1 Vs. Case 2		Mean Difference (C1-C2)	Standard Error	Significance (p<0.01)
Kissing/ Fondling	Stranger	Acquaintance	-0.5348*	0.4553	<0.001
		Relationship	-1.0344*	0.4560	<0.001
	Acquaintance	Stranger	0.5348*	0.4553	<0.001
		Relationship	-0.4996*	0.4535	<0.001
	Relationship	Stranger	1.0344*	0.4560	<0.001
		Acquaintance	0.4996*	0.4535	<0.001
Oral Sex	Stranger	Acquaintance	0.0750	0.1191	<0.001
		Relationship	-0.3396*	0.1196	<0.001
	Acquaintance	Stranger	-0.0750	0.1191	<0.001
		Relationship	-0.4146*	0.1197	<0.001
	Relationship	Stranger	-0.3396*	0.1196	<0.001
		Acquaintance	0.4146*	0.1197	<0.001
Intercourse	Stranger	Acquaintance	-0.6819*	0.1184	<0.001
		Relationship	-0.9280*	0.1178	<0.001
	Acquaintance	Stranger	0.6819*	0.1184	<0.001
		Relationship	-0.2461	0.1183	<0.001
	Relationship	Stranger	0.9280*	0.1178	<0.001
		Acquaintance	0.2461	0.1183	<0.001

* The mean difference is significant at the .01 level.

Table 14: Tukey HSD tests on the influence of form of forced sexual activity on participants definition of scenarios

Relationship Type	Case 1 Vs. Case 2		Mean Difference (C1-C2)	Standard Error	Significance (p<0.01)
Stranger	Kiss/Fond.	Oral Sex	-0.5348*	0.4553	<0.001
		Intercourse	-1.0344*	0.4560	<0.001
	Oral Sex	Kiss/Fond.	0.5348*	0.4553	<0.001
		Intercourse	-0.4996*	0.4535	<0.001
	Intercourse	Kiss/Fond.	1.0344*	0.4560	<0.001
		Oral Sex	0.4996*	0.4535	<0.001
Acquaintance	Kiss/Fond.	Oral Sex	0.0750	0.1191	0.010
		Intercourse	-0.3396*	0.1196	0.804
	Oral Sex	Kiss/Fond.	-0.0750	0.1191	0.804
		Intercourse	-0.4146*	0.1197	<0.001
	Intercourse	Kiss/Fond.	-0.3396*	0.1196	0.010
		Oral Sex	0.4146*	0.1197	<0.001
Relationship	Kiss/Fond.	Oral Sex	-0.6819*	0.1184	<0.001
		Intercourse	-0.9280*	0.1178	<0.001
	Oral Sex	Kiss/Fond.	0.6819*	0.1184	<0.001
		Intercourse	-0.2461	0.1183	0.095
	Intercourse	Kiss/Fond.	0.9280*	0.1178	<0.001
		Oral Sex	0.2461	0.1183	0.095

*The mean difference is significant at the .01 level.

Q2: Confidence in Definition of Scenario - "How sure are you with your selected response [to the scenario]?"

Participants were asked to indicate how confident they were ("very unsure", "unsure", "somewhat sure", "sure" or "very sure") with their definition of the given scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). From Figure 9 it can be seen that participants were most confident ("Sure", 3.76 ± 0.79) with their responses to scenarios involving a stranger and forced intercourse and least confident ("unsure", 2.49 ± 1.07) with their responses to scenarios involving a relationship and forced intercourse. M-ANOVA tests revealed significant differences between relationship type and form of forced sexual activity in relation to participants' reported level of confidence with their definition of scenarios (Table 15).

From the mean distribution (Figure 10) it appears that relationship type was the primary influence on participants' reported confidence level and form of forced sexual activity, although still significant, was secondary in magnitude. Overall, participants' reported level of confidence with their responses decreased as familiarity between the parties involved increased from stranger to relationship, regardless of form of forced sexual activity. Unfortunately, a similar uniform pattern for form of forced sexual activity was not found. As such, form of forced sexual activity will be examined within each relationship type for patterns.

Figure 10: The influence of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on participants' reported level of confidence

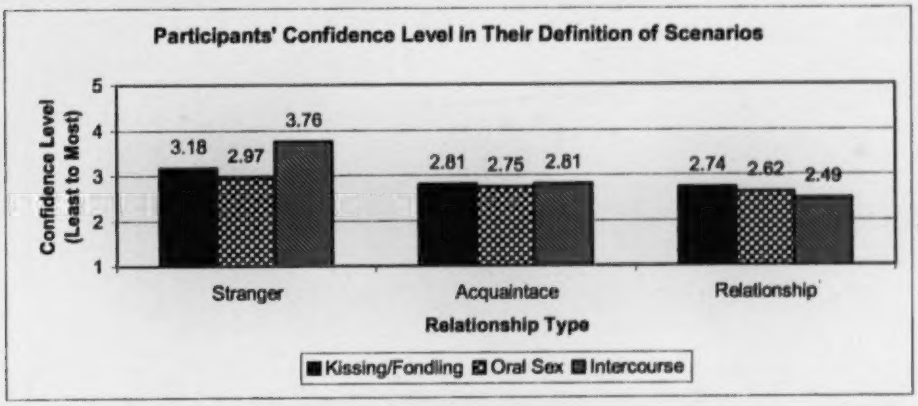


Table 15: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on participant's reported level of confidence

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Sexual Activity	15.7	2	7.8	10.2	<0.001
Relationship Type	138.8	2	69.4	90.2	<0.001
Relationship Type X Form of Sexual Activity	50.2	4	12.5	16.3	<0.001
Error	1263	1642	0.769		

In scenarios involving strangers, participants were least sure of scenarios involving forced oral sex ("somewhat sure", 2.97), and most sure of scenarios involving forced intercourse ("sure", 3.76). Recalling that the majority of participants defined stranger scenarios as either "sexual assault" or "rape" and that less individuals defined scenarios involving forced oral sex or forced kissing/fondling as such, these findings support the notion that participants were most uncertain with responses that they did not define as "sexual assault" or "rape". In addition, participants' indicated they were most uncertain with their definitions of scenarios involving "oral sex" despite being more likely to define them as "sexual assault" or "rape" as compared to scenarios involving kissing/fondling. This seems to point to the fact that participants are most uncertain about the placement of forced oral sex.

In looking at the other two relationship types ("acquaintance" and "relationship") we see that the results regarding scenarios with forced oral sex were mixed. In acquaintance scenarios, participants' reported confidence level appears to be fairly uniform throughout ("somewhat sure"). As in relationship scenarios, participants were most uncertain with their definition of scenarios involving oral sex. In relationship scenarios, there appears to be a linear progression in increased confidence levels as invasiveness decreases from forced intercourse to forced kissing/fondling.

In conclusion, participants reported being most confident in their definitions of scenarios that fit the traditional sexual assault scenario involving a stranger and forced intercourse. This confidence continually decreased as the familiarity between parties involved increased from stranger to relationship. Although not as uniform, form of forced sexual activity also influenced participants reported confidence levels with their definitions of scenarios. Overall, participants' reported confidence increased as invasiveness decreased, with the exception of scenarios involving strangers where the opposite was found to be true.

Q3. Survivor Responsibility - "How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not", "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the survivor was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). M-ANOVA tests revealed significant differences between relationship type, form of forced sexual activity, and their interaction in relation to participants' assigned survivor responsibility (Table 16). Survivors were viewed as being most responsible ("somewhat" 3.14±1.02) in scenarios involving a relationship and forced kissing/fondling, and least responsible ("not" 1.21±0.54) in scenarios involving a stranger and kissing/fondling (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Sexual Activity on Assigned Survivor Responsibility

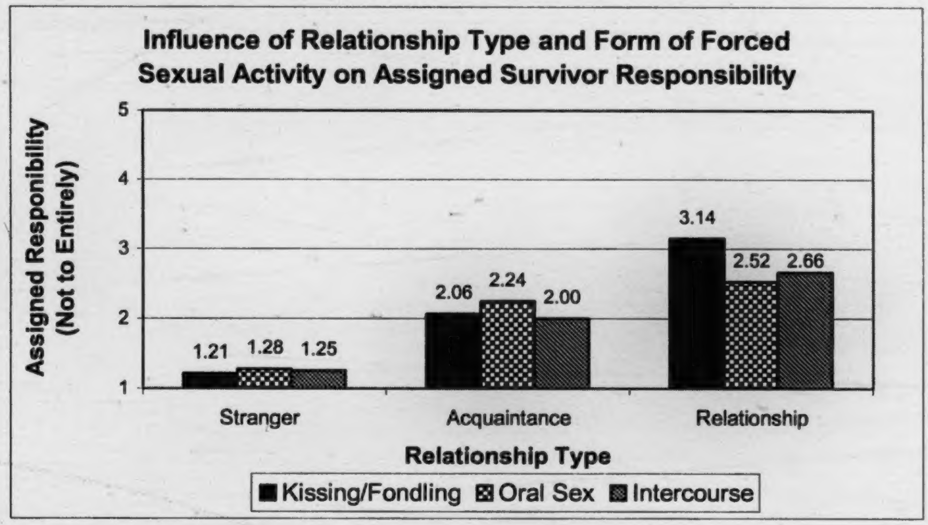


Table 16: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on assigned survivor responsibility

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Sexual Activity	7.0	2	3.5	4.6	0.01
Relationship Type	669.9	2	334.9	440.6	<0.001
Relationship Type X Form of Sexual Activity	57.5	4	14.4	18.9	<0.001
Error	1248.2	1642	0.76		

From the mean distribution (Figure 11), it appears that relationship type is the primary influence on assigned survivor responsibility. Form of forced sexual activity, although still significant, is secondary. Overall, survivor responsibility increased as familiarity between the parties involved increased from stranger to relationship. In stranger scenarios survivors were deemed to be "not" responsible for what happened, regardless of the form of forced sexual activity. In scenarios involving an acquaintance, participants ranked the survivor as "a little" responsible in situations involving forced kissing/fondling or forced oral sex and "somewhat" responsible in situations involving forced intercourse.

Although overall, survivor responsibility was ranked as "somewhat" in relationship scenarios, scenarios involving forced oral sex and forced intercourse were more similar than scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling. It may be important to recall that the majority of participants did not define acquaintance or relationship scenarios as "sexual assault" or "rape", the exception being scenarios involving an acquaintance and forced intercourse. Considering this along with participants' assigned survivor responsibility it appears that survivor responsibility is highest in scenarios that are least likely identified as "sexual assault/rape" and lowest in scenarios that are more likely identified as "sexual assault/rape".

The influence of the form of forced sexual activity on assigned survivor responsibility does not appear to be independent of relationship type. As such, it was desirable to look at the influence of form of forced sexual activity within relationship type. In scenarios involving a stranger, survivor responsibility is nearly equal ("a little" 1.21-1.28) suggesting that form of forced sexual activity had no influence on assigned survivor responsibility. In acquaintance scenarios, survivor responsibility increases as the level of invasiveness in forced sexual activity increases from kissing/fondling to intercourse. The influence of form of forced sexual activity changes again in relationship scenarios. Survivor responsibility is highest in scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling (3.14 ±1.02) and lowest in scenarios involving forced oral sex (2.52±1.02). From the mean distribution in Figure 11 it appears that forced oral sex and forced intercourse are viewed similarly in terms of assigned survivor responsibility. Recalling that participants' definitions of these scenarios were similar, this is not surprising.

In conclusion, survivor responsibility increases as the familiarity between the two parties increases from stranger to relationship. Although the influence of the form of forced sexual activity on assigned survivor responsibility is not as uniform throughout, or clear-cut as that of relationship type, it does have an impact. The following examination of participants' written explanations for assigned survivor responsibility may shed some light on the exact influence that form of forced sexual activity had on participants' responses.

Written responses for assigned survivor responsibility.

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of survivor responsibility. These responses, provided by eighty-nine percent (492) of all participants, were grouped into five thematic categories ["was force", "should have been safer" (i.e. "shouldn't have drank that much", "shouldn't have gone home with him", "should have walked with a friend", etc.), let it happen", "was not clear", and "consensual") by two different readers (X^2=87, df=5, p<0.001). The results were quantified to give the distributions seen in Figures 12,13, and 14 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). Chi square tests revealed that both relationship type and form of forced sexual activity were found to have significant influences on participant's written responses in terms of their assignment to the five thematic categories (Table 17).

Figure 12: Form of forced sexual activity thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in stranger scenarios

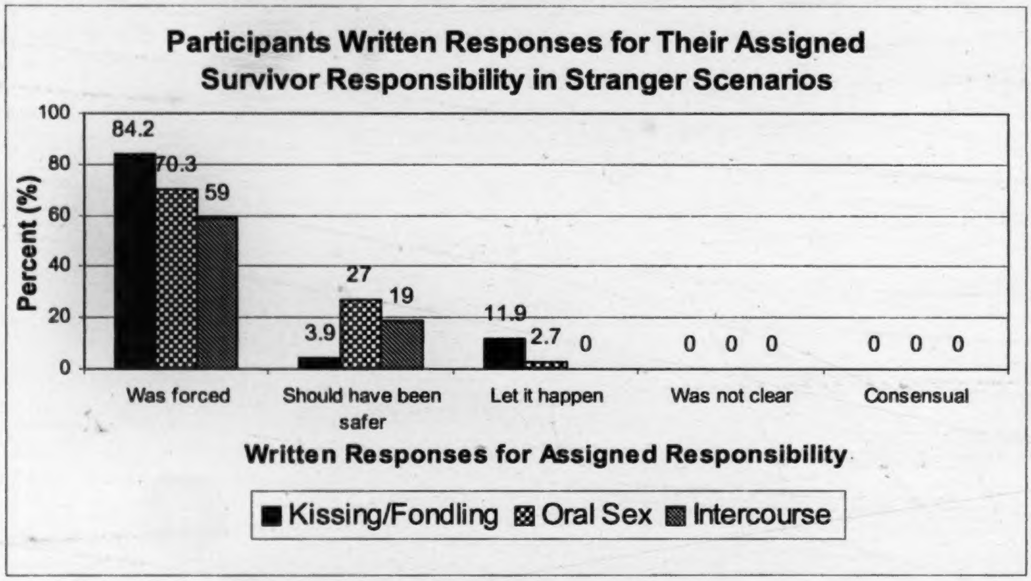


Figure 13: Form of forced sexual activity thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in acquaintance scenarios

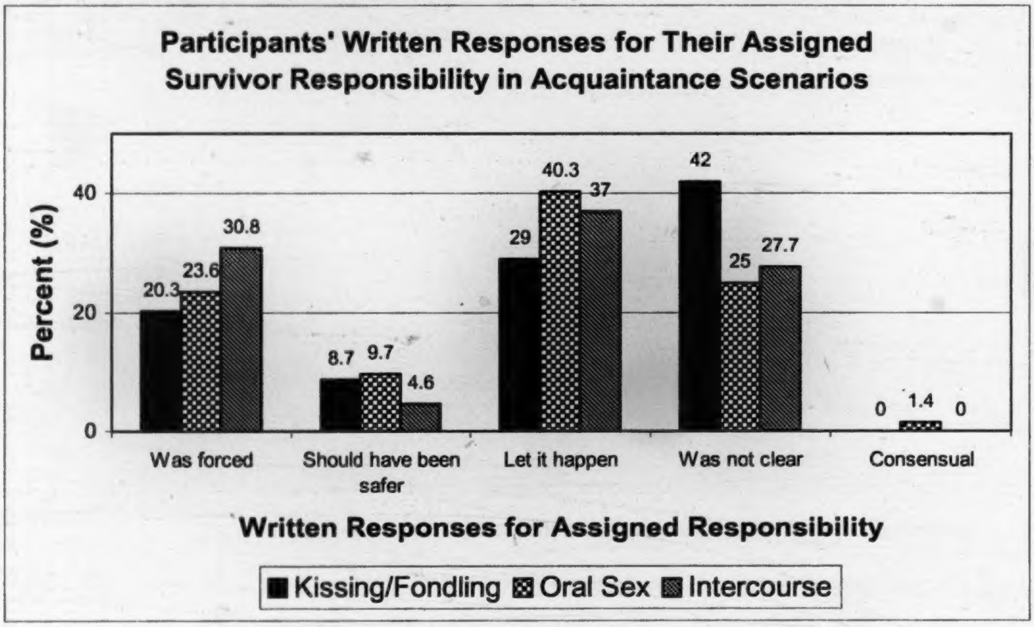


Figure 14: Form of forced sexual activity thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in relationship scenarios

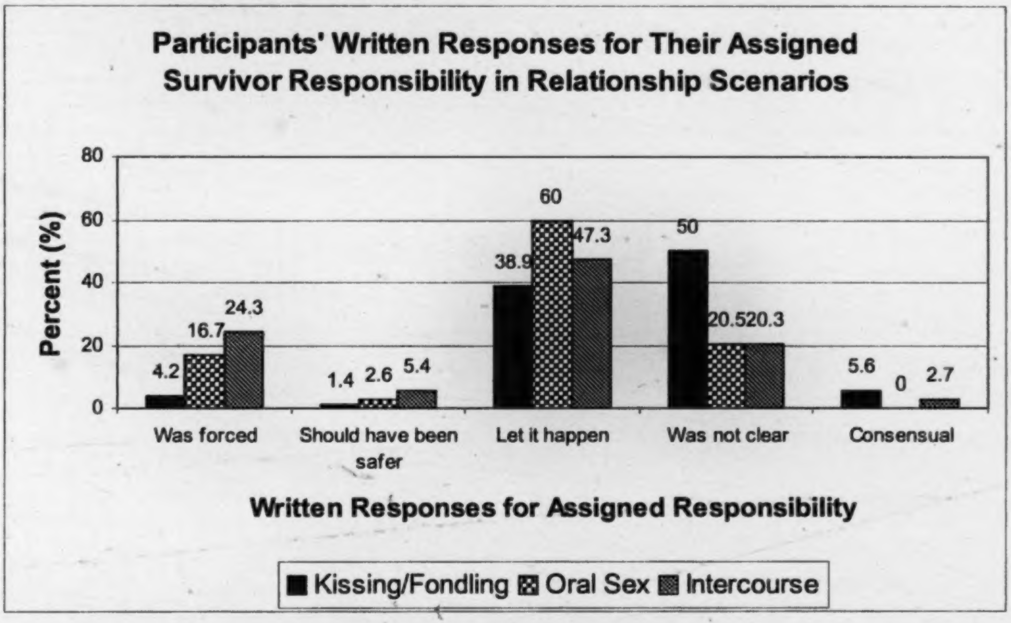


Table 17: Chi square tests examining the influence of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on participants' written responses to survivor responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance (p<0.1)
Stranger Scenarios	56	10	<0.001
Acquaintance Scenarios	57	10	<0.001
Relationship Scenarios	73	10	<0.001
Kissing/Fondling Scenarios	262	10	<0.001
Oral Sex Scenarios	288	10	<0.001
Intercourse Scenarios	310	10	<0.001

In regards to relationship type, "was forced" was the only written explanation that participants provided which does not suggest that the survivor could or should have done something to avoid or lessen the situation. In looking at this category, it can be seen that relationship type again appears to be the primary influence on participants' responses. Participants were less likely to indicate that the survivor "was forced" as familiarity between parties increased from stranger to relationship (84%, n=136 to 4%, n=6). The influence of form of forced sexual activity however is not as apparent. A more complete exploration of the distribution of participants' written responses is required to understand the influence of form of forced sexual activity.

Upon examining scenarios in relation to form of forced sexual activity "was forced" was least likely to be mentioned as a reason for assigned survivor responsibility in stranger scenarios when form of forced sexual activity was oral sex (70.3%, n=114) and was most likely to be mentioned when form of forced sexual activity was kissing/fondling

(84%, n=138). In stranger scenarios an increase in written responses to the effect of "should have been safer" is observed as form of forced sexual activity changes from kissing/fondling to oral sex or intercourse (4%, n=6 to 27%, n=44). Oral sex appears to be more closely related to intercourse and may be an indication that oral sex is viewed to be closer to intercourse in terms of invasiveness and severity. From these results, it appears that participants felt survivors had more of an opportunity to alter and/or avoid the situation as level of invasiveness increased.

In acquaintance scenarios, when form of forced sexual activity was kissing/fondling participants were most likely to indicate the survivor "was not clear" (42%, n=68) followed by "let it happen" (29%, n=48). In the case of forced oral sex, forty percent of participants indicated that the survivor "let it happen" while another 25% (n=42) and 24%(n=40) indicated the survivor "was not clear" and "was forced". When the form of forced sexual activity was intercourse, participants were most likely to indicate the survivor "let it happen" (41%, n=68) followed by "was not clear" (33.3%, n=54). Again, written responses for oral sex are more closely associated with those written for intercourse. In addition, participants' responses seem to shift from "was not clear" (42%, n=68 to 25%, n=42) to "let it happen" (29%, n=48 to 41%, n=68) as invasiveness increases from kissing/fondling to oral sex or intercourse.

Participants were most likely to indicate the survivor was "not clear" (50%, n=82) followed by "let it happen" (29%, n=48) in relationship scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling. When form of forced sexual activity was oral sex, the majority of participants indicated the survivor "let it happen"(60%, n=98) followed by "was not clear"(21%, n=34). Similarly, when the form of forced sexual activity was intercourse the majority of participants indicated the survivor "let it happen" (64%, n=106) followed by "was not clear" (21%, n=34). Written responses for oral sex are again nearly identical to those of intercourse. Also, in accordance with the pattern observed in both stranger and acquaintance scenarios participants' responses shift from "was not clear" (50%, n=82 to 21%, n=34) to "let it happen" (29%, n=48 to 64%, n=106) as invasiveness increases from kissing/fondling to oral sex or intercourse.

Although initially the influence of form of forced sexual activity was not clear, a closer examination of the results reveals that the influence is similar to that of relationship type. From the results, it would appear that survivors are viewed as having more of an opportunity to avoid or alter situations as familiarity between both parties and level of invasiveness in forced sexual activity increases. Evidence of this is seen in the shift of participants' responses from "was forced" to responses like "should have been safer", "was not clear", and "let it happen" as relationship type changes from stranger to relationship and form of forced sexual activity changes from kissing/fondling to intercourse. In addition, participants written responses seem to progress from "was forced" to "should have been safer" to "was not clear" to "let it happen" as assigned survivor responsibility increases. Keeping in mind that assigned survivor responsibility increased as familiarity increased in relationship type and invasiveness increased in forced sexual activity, it would appear that "was forced" is the least blaming response and "let it happen" is the most blaming written response.

Q4. Offender Responsibility - "How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not", "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the offender was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). Overall participants rated offender responsibility very high regardless of the scenario (Figure15). Offender responsibility was highest ("entirely", 4.96±0.54) in scenarios involving a stranger and forced intercourse and lowest ("mostly", 3.59 ± 0.90) in relationship scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling. M-ANOVA tests revealed significant differences between relationship type and form of sexual activity in relation to participants' assigned offender responsibility (Table 18).

Figure 15: Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Sexual Activity on Assigned Offender Responsibility

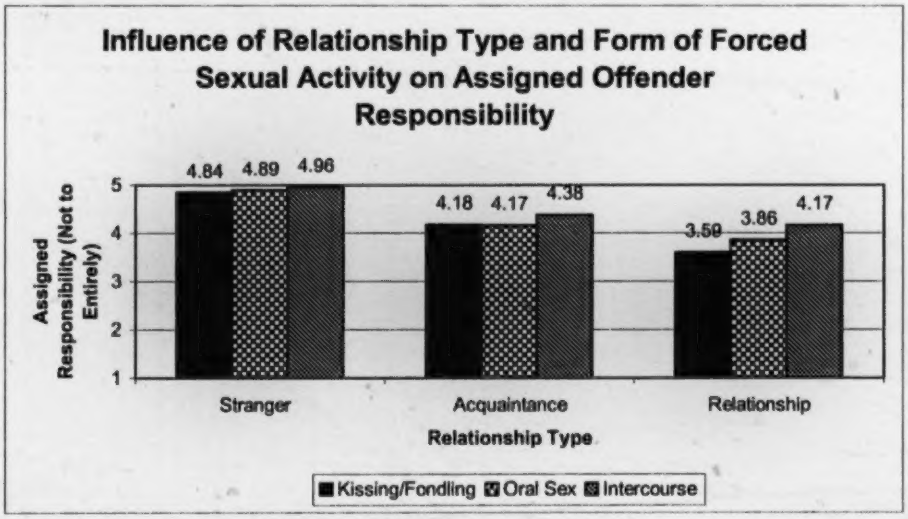


Table 18: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on assigned offender responsibility

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Forced Sexual Activity	6.3	2	3.1	5.6	<0.001
Relationship Type	333.9	2	167.0	300.7	<0.001
Relationship Type X Form of Sexual Activity	7.9	4	2.0	3.6	0.01
Error	911.7	1642	0.555		

Offender responsibility appears to decrease as familiarity between parties involved increases from stranger to relationship, with the exception of scenarios involving a relationship and forced intercourse. Upon examining the distributions of participants responses in figure 14 it appears that form of forced sexual activity had little if any influence on assigned offender responsibility in either stranger or acquaintance scenarios. In both relationship types offender responsibility is fairly uniform throughout.

Scenarios involving a relationship on the other hand, show a definite increase in offender responsibility as invasiveness in form of sexual activity increases.

Although offender responsibility varies primarily with type of relationship it is important to note that in all situations offenders were ranked as being either "somewhat", "mostly", or "entirely" responsible for what happened in the scenario, regardless of whether the scenario was defined as "sexual assault/rape". Comparing this to survivor responsibility where the survivor was ranked as being "not", "a little", or "somewhat" responsible, it can be seen that offenders were usually deemed to be more responsible in the situation than the survivor. The only exception to this was in scenarios involving a relationship and forced kissing/fondling where both the survivor and offender were deemed to be equally responsible ("somewhat").

Written responses for assigned offender responsibility.

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of offender responsibility. These responses, provided by eighty-nine percent (492) of all participants, were grouped into six thematic categories ("coerced", "forced", "misunderstood", "hormones", "knew survivor wasn't consenting", or "consensual") by two readers ($X^2=87$, df=5, $p<0.001$). The results were quantified to give the distributions seen in Figures 16,17, and 18 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). Out of the six categories that resulted, three of the categories suggest the offender was aware that the situation was not consensual ("forced", "coerced", and "knew survivor wasn't consenting"). Only two categories resulted which suggested that the situation from the offenders perspective was not intentional ("misunderstood" and "hormones"). Both relationship type and form of forced sexual activity were found to have significant influences on participant's written responses (Table 19).

Figure 16: Form of forced sexual activity thematic summary of participants' written responses to offender responsibility in stranger scenarios

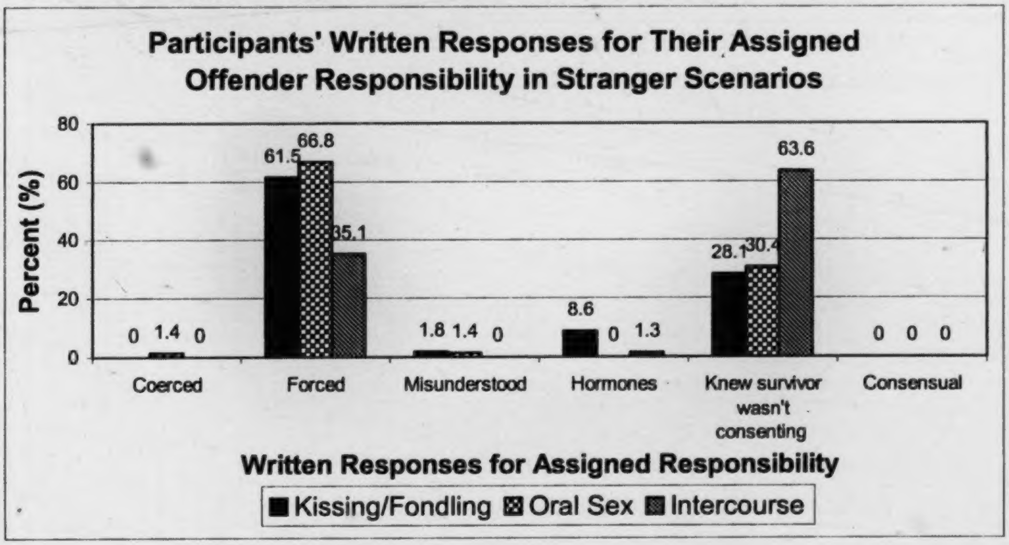


Figure 17: Form of forced sexual activity thematic of participants' written responses on offender responsibility in acquaintance scenarios

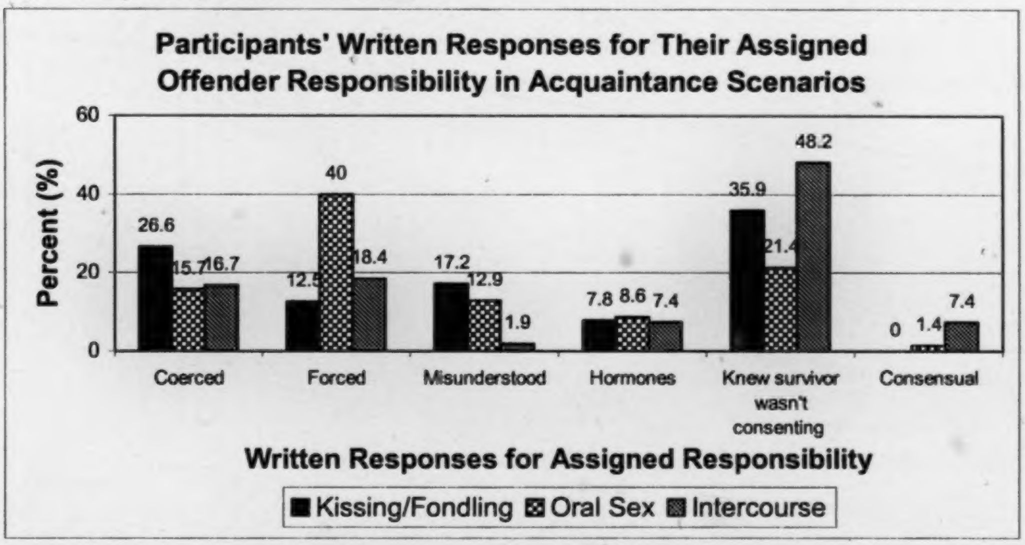


Figure 18: Form of forced sexual activity thematic of participants' written responses on offender responsibility in relationship scenarios

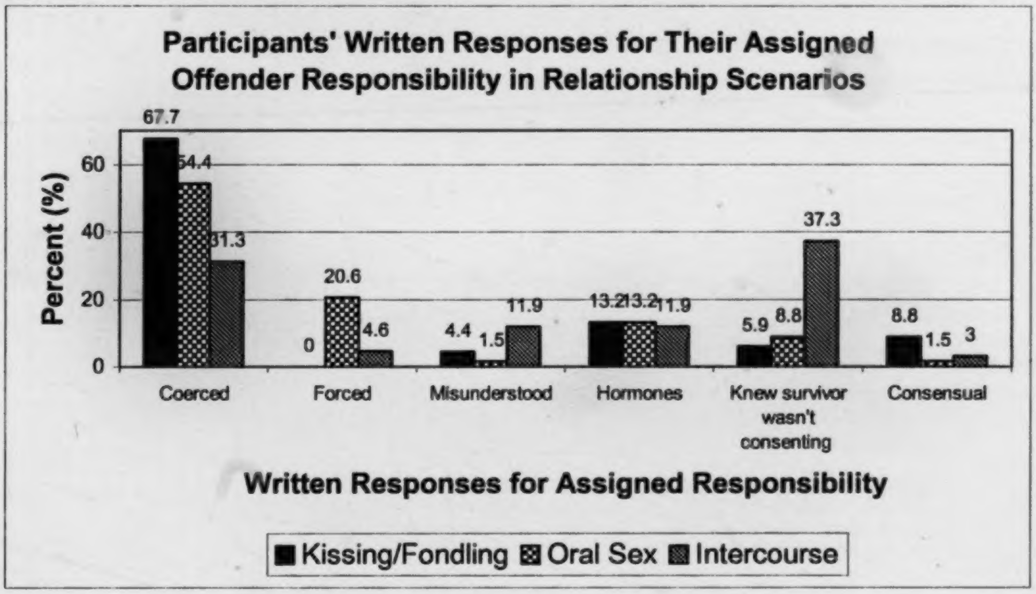


Table 19: Chi square tests examining the influence of relationship type and form of forced sexual activity on participants written responses to offender responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance ($p<0.01$)
Stranger Scenarios	66	6	<0.001
Acquaintance Scenarios	100	10	<0.001
Relationship Scenarios	126	10	<0.001
Kissing/Fondling Scenarios	259	10	<0.001
Oral Sex Scenarios	231	10	<0.001
Intercourse Scenarios	135	10	<0.001

Upon examining scenarios in relation to relationship type, there appears overall to be a shift from "forced" (69%, n=113 to 0%, n=0) to "knew survivor wasn't consenting" (32%, n=52 to 48%, n=78) to "coerced" (0%, n=0 to 67%, n=110) as familiarity increases between parties. As familiarity between parties increased, participants were more likely to indicate that the offender "coerced" the survivor instead of "forced" the survivor. It is not surprising that coercion was highest in relationship scenarios as coercion is most effective in situations where a strong level of trust exists between individuals. In addition, participants were more likely to indicate that the offender "misunderstood"(1%, n=2 to 17%, n=28) the situation or was overcome by "hormones" (1%, n=2 to 13%, n=22) as familiarity increased between the parties involved. The highest percent of "misunderstood" (17%,n=28) was found in acquaintance scenarios while the highest percent of "hormones" (13%, n=22) was observed in relationship scenarios.

Although in there appeared to be little to no effect of form of forced sexual activity on assigned offender responsibility, participants' written responses indicate that form of forced sexual activity does indeed have an effect on participants' responses. In stranger scenarios, participants were more likely to indicate the offender had "forced" the survivor as invasiveness in forced sexual activity increased from kissing/fondling to oral sex or intercourse (62%, n=102 to 69%, n=114). As in participants' written responses to assigned survivor responsibility, oral sex appears to be more associated with intercourse.

In acquaintance scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling participants were most likely to indicate that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (36%, n=60) followed by "coerced" (27%, n=44). The majority of responses for scenarios involving forced oral sex were "forced" (40%, n=66) followed by "knew the survivor wasn't consenting (21%, n=34). When the form of forced sexual activity was intercourse participants were most likely to indicate that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (48%, n=78). In addition the likelihood of indicating the offender "misunderstood" the situation decreased as the form of forced sexual activity became more invasive. Unlike the results found in participants' definition and assigned survivor responsibility in acquaintance scenarios involving forced oral sex, assigned offender responsibility appears to be distinct from both forced intercourse and forced kissing/fondling. From these results it would appear that the offender was most forceful in scenarios involving forced oral sex followed by those involving forced intercourse, which in turn was more forceful than scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling.

In relationship scenarios, participants were less likely to indicate the offender had "coerced" (68%, n=112 to 31%, n=50) the survivor as the level of invasiveness increased from forced kissing/fondling to forced intercourse. In relationship scenarios involving forced kissing/fondling, participants were most likely to indicate the offender had "coerced" (68%, n=112) the survivor. When the form of forced sexual activity was oral sex, fifty-four percent of participants indicated the offender had "coerced" the survivor while another twenty-one percent indicated the offender had "forced" the survivor. In relationship scenarios involving forced intercourse "knew survivor wasn't consenting" was indicated in 37% (n=60) of the situations, while "coerced" was mentioned in thirty-one percent of the situations. The influence of forced sexual activity in relationship scenarios are different from that found in either acquaintance or stranger scenarios. In relationship scenarios the level of force used by the offender seems to decrease as the form of forced sexual activity changes from kissing/fondling to intercourse.

Although form of forced sexual activity does play a significant role in participants written responses to assigned offender responsibility, it is secondary and specific to each relationship type. Unlike the results found in written responses for assigned survivor responsibility, the similarity between forced oral sex and forced intercourse was only observed in stranger scenarios. This does not necessarily dispel the notion that there is some confusion between where forced oral sex fits in relation to forced kissing/fondling and forced intercourse, but rather suggests that this is not a concern when considering the offender.

The majority of participants' written responses to assigned offender responsibility indicated that the offender was aware that he/she did not have consent ("forced", "coerced", "knew the survivor was not consenting"). This is interesting as not all scenarios were defined as "sexual assault" or "rape". These findings seem to indicate that the absence of consent was not sufficient for participants to define a situation as "sexual assault" or "rape". As a lack of consent is the only factor that differentiates between consensual sexual activity and sexual assault in the legal definition of sexual assault, this finding is most interesting and most concerning.

Influence of Form of Non-Consent

Five forms of non-consent where selected to be examined in this section in the context of acquaintance and relationship settings. These five forms of non-consent where: clear "no", implied "no", change of mind, prior consent, and incapable (alcohol).

Q1: Definition of Scenario - "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Table 20 summaries participants' responses to the nine scenarios developed to look at form of non-consent in both acquaintance and relationship settings. Participants defined the majority of scenarios looking at form of non-consent as "sexual assault/rape", with the exception of scenarios involving "Change of mind" and relationship scenarios involving a "Direct 'no'". After combining the responses for "sexual assault" or "rape", "miscommunication" was the second most selected response by participants. This is an interesting finding when recalling that only 10% of participants indicated that sexual assault was a result of miscommunication in the global perceptions section.

M-ANOVA tests indicate that form of non-consent had a significant influence on participants' definitions of scenarios while relationship type did not (Table 21). Figure 19 indicates that participants were most likely to assign a rating of "sexual assault" or "rape" in situations where the survivor was incapable of giving consent (passed out due to alcohol) and least likely to define scenarios as "sexual assault/rape" in situations where the survivor changed her/his mind. Tukey tests were used to further examine the impact of form of non-consent, the results of which are outlined in Table 22.

Table 20: Participants' responses to, "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Scenario			**Distribution**				
			Normal (1)	**Miscom-munication (2)**	**Sexual Harassment (3)**	**Sexual Assault (4)**	**Rape (5)**
Form of Non-consent	**Type of Relationship**	**Mean ± SD**	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***
Direct "'no"	Acquaintance	3.62 ± 1.49	9*(16)*	27*(48)*	3*(6)*	16*(28)*	46*(82)*
	Relationship	3.27 ± 1.39	7*(12)*	41*(76)*	8*(15)*	16*(30)*	28*(51)*
Implied "no"	Acquaintance	3.54 ± 1.53	15*(27)*	17*(30)*	7*(13)*	19*(34)*	41*(73)*
	Relationship	3.99 ± 1.15	3*(3)*	13*(12)*	8*(7)*	39*(36)*	37*(34)*
Change Mind	Acquaintance	3.24 ± 1.37	8*(14)*	35*(64)*	9*(17)*	21*(39)*	26*(48)*
	Relationship	3.38 ± 1.53	14*(12)*	27*(24)*	5*(4)*	18*(16)*	37*(33)*
Prior Consent	Relationship	4.09 ± 0.71	3*(6)*	11*(19)*	10*(18)*	26*(46)*	51*(91)*
Not Capable (Alcohol)l	Acquaintance	4.59 ± 0.91	3*(5)*	4*(7)*	1*(2)*	17*(31)*	76*(140)*
	Relationship	4.82 ± 0.52	0*()*	2*(4)*	1*(2)*	11*(20)*	86*(157)*

Figure 19: Influence of Form of Non-consent on Participants' Definition of Scenarios

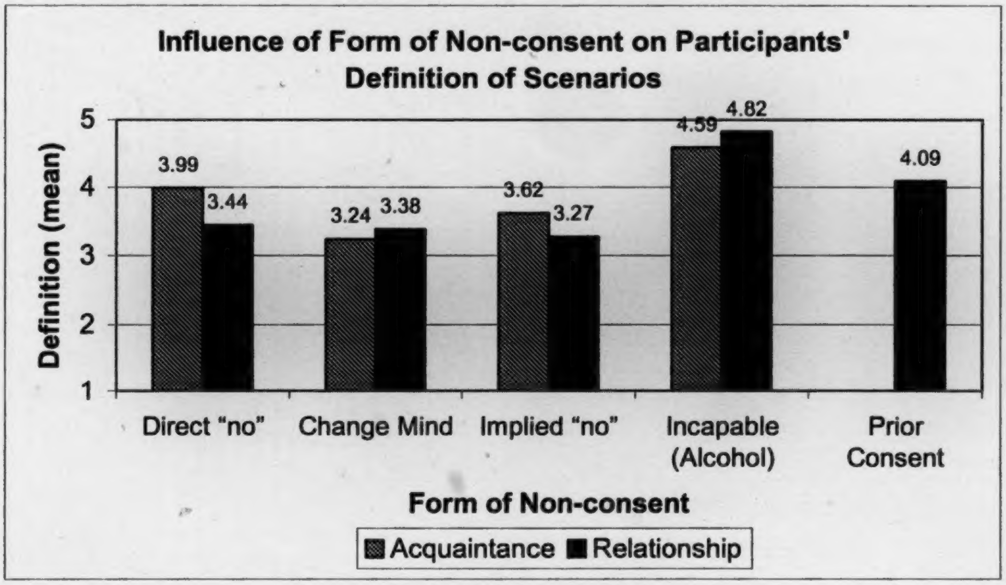


Table 21: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of form of non-consent on participant's definition of scenarios

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Non-consent	412	4	103	66	<0.001
Relationship Type	4.33	1	4.33	2.78	>0.01
Form of Non-consent X Relationship Type	40.7	3	13.6	8.7	<0.001
Error	2353	1509	1.56		

Table 22: Tukey HSD tests on the influence of form of non-consent within relationship type on participants' definition of scenarios

Form of Non-consent (1) Vs.	Form of Non- consent (2)	Mean Difference (I-2)	Standard Error	Significance (p<0.01)
Direct "no"	Change of Mind	0.1121	0.1021	>0.01
	Implied "no"	-0.3719*	0.0930	0.001
	Incapable (Alcohol)	-1.3069*	0.0926	<0.001
	Prior Consent	-0.6988*	0.1138	<0.001
Change of Mind	Direct "no"	-0.1121	0.1021	>0.01
	Implied "no"	-0.4840*	0.1025	<0.001
	Incapable (Alcohol)	-1.4190*	0.1022	<0.001
	Prior Consent	-0.8110*	0.1217	<0.001
Implied "no"	Direct "no"	0.3719*	0.0930	0.001
	Change of Mind	0.4840*	0.1025	<0.001
	Incapable (Alcohol)	-0.9350*	0.0931	<0.001
	Prior Consent	-0.3269	0.1142	>0.01
Incapable (Alcohol)	Direct "no"	1.3069*	0.0926	<0.001
	Change of Mind	1.4190*	0.1022	<0.001
	Implied "no"	0.9350*	0.0931	<0.001
	Prior Consent	0.6080*	0.1138	<0.001
Prior Consent	Direct "'no"	0.6988*	0.1138	<0.001
	Change of Mind	0.8110*	0.1217	<0.001
	Implied "no"	0.3269	0.1142	>0.01
	Incapable (Alcohol)	-0.6080*	0.1138	<0.001

* The mean difference is significant at the .01 level

No statistically significant differences were found between "Direct 'no'" and "Change of mind" or between "Implied 'no'" and "Prior consent". Alternatively, the form of non-consent "Incapable" was found to be significantly different from all other forms of non-consent used in the study. From these results and the mean distribution in Figure 19 it appears that participants were increasingly more likely to define scenarios as "sexual assault/rape" as the form of non-consent changed from "Direct 'no'" or "Change of mind" to "Implied 'no'" or "Prior Consent" to "Incapable". With the exception of "Direct 'no'", it appears that individuals were more likely to define scenarios as "sexual assault/rape" as the form of non-consent became more direct ("Change of mind" verses "Incapable").

Q2: Confidence in Definition of Scenario - "How sure are you with your selected response [to the scenario]?"

Participants were asked to indicate how confident they were ("very unsure", "unsure", "somewhat sure", "sure" or "very sure") with their definition of the given scenario (See

Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). From Figure 20 it can be seen that participants were least confident with their definitions of scenarios involving "Implied 'no'" and a relationship (1.93 ± 0.96) and most confident with scenarios involving "Incapable" and a relationship (3.41 ± 0.83). M-ANOVA tests revealed statistically significant differences between forms of non-consent but not between relationship types (Table 23).

In comparing participants' confidence (Figure 20) with participants' definitions (Figure 19) there appears to be a relationship between level of confidence and whether the scenario was defined as "sexual assault" or "rape". Figure 20 appears to mirror Figure 19 in that "Implied 'no'" and "Change of mind" are lowest followed by "Direct 'no'", "Prior consent" and "Incapable". Further, scenarios that were more frequently defined as "sexual assault/rape" have higher reported levels of confidence than scenarios that were less frequently defined as "sexual assault/rape". Keeping this in mind, it is not surprising that participants were most confident in scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Incapable" or "Prior consent" as these were the scenarios most likely to be defined as "sexual assault/rape". It is unclear whether participants' reported uncertainty with their definitions of scenarios is because they truly are not sure whether the situations legally fit the definitions of sexual assault or whether they felt they should have defined the situation as "sexual assault" or "rape"

Figure 20: The influence of form of non-consent and relationship type on participants' reported level of confidence

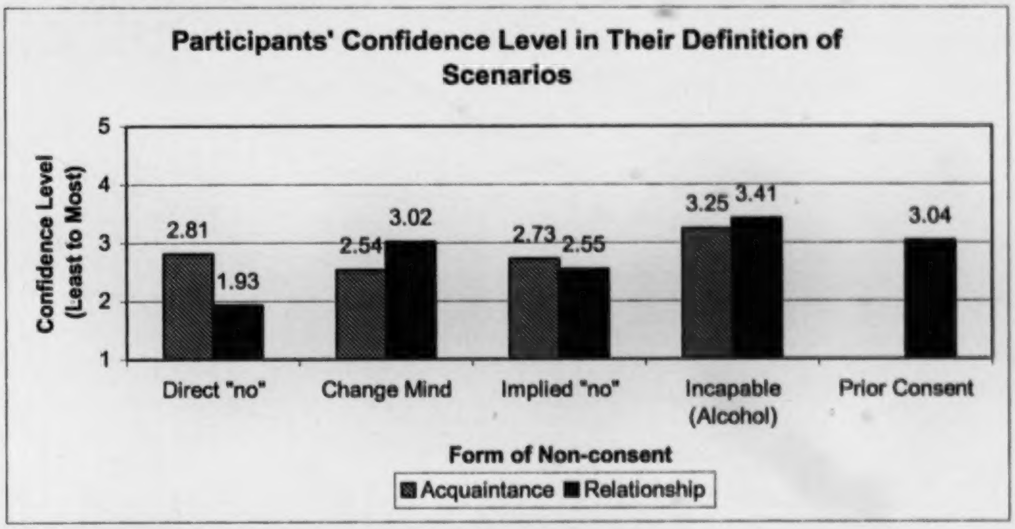


Table 23: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of form of non-consent and relationship type on participant's reported level of confidence

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Non-consent	108	4	27.0	22.8	<0.001
Relationship Type	1.91	1	1.91	1.61	>0.01
Form of Non-consent X Relationship Type	9.30	3	3.10	2.61	>0.01
Error	1784	1509	1.18		

Q3. Survivor Responsibility -"How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not", "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the survivor was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). Figure 21 summarizes participants' responses and seems to indicate that participants rated survivor responsibility highest in acquaintance scenarios and lowest in relationship scenarios. M-ANOVA tests revealed that both form of non-consent and relationship type had statistically significant influences on participants assigned survivor responsibility (Table 24). Survivor responsibility was highest in acquaintance scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" ("Somewhat" 2.82 ± 1.12) and lowest in scenarios involving a relationship where the survivor was "Incapable" ("A little" 1.67 ± 0.90).

Figure 21: Influence of Form of non-consent and Relationship Type on Assigned Survivor Responsibility

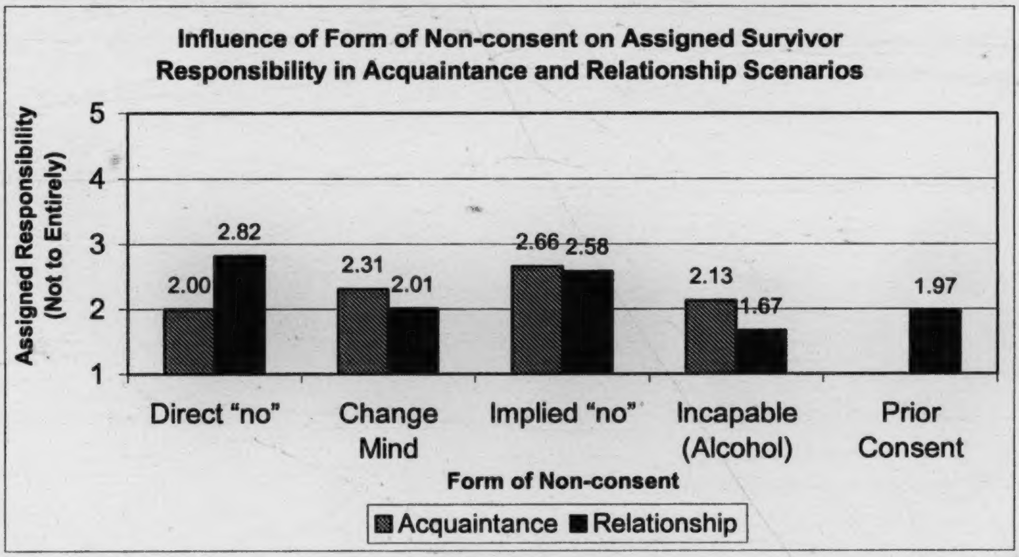


Table 24: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of form of non-consent and relationship type on assigned survivor responsibility

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Non-consent	126	4	31.6	30.3	<0.001
Relationship Type	35.5	1	35.5	33.9	<0.001
Form of Non-consent X Relationship Type	20.8	3	6.93	6.63	<0.001
Error	1576	1509	1.04		

It was expected that participants would assign higher levels of responsibility to survivors in situations that they were least likely to define as "sexual assault/rape". This was found to be the case in relationship scenarios but not in acquaintance scenarios. In relationship scenarios, assigned survivor responsibility was similar to the distribution of participants' definition of the scenario. With the exception of "direct 'no'" assigned survivor responsibility decreased as the form of non-consent became more direct in relationship scenarios. Scenarios involving acquaintances, however do not appear to follow a similar pattern, and in fact, do not appear to follow any pattern at all. In acquaintance scenarios assigned survivor responsibility was highest when the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" (2.82 ± 1.12) and lowest when the form of non-consent was "Incapable" (2.13 ± 1.08).

With the exception of "Direct 'no'" in relationship scenarios, "Implied 'no'" has the highest level of responsibility in both acquaintance and relationship scenarios (2.66 ± 0.96 and 2.58 ± 1.10 respectively). It was surprising that survivor responsibility was highest in scenarios involving a relationship and "Direct 'no'. It was expected that "Direct 'no' would be considered most clear and, therefore, assigned survivor responsibility would be low in comparison to other scenarios where the form of non-consent was not as direct ("change of mind" or "implied 'no'"). It is unclear from these results why "direct 'no'" has a higher assigned level of survivor responsibility in relationship scenarios than other less direct forms of non-consent. It may be the inherent beliefs about relationships (caring, trustworthy, open, safe and so on) that lead participants to feel survivors were more responsible and therefore had more control over the situation in relationship scenarios. An examination of participants written explanations for their assigned level of responsibility may offer some form of an explanation for this finding.

Written responses for assigned survivor responsibility

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of survivor responsibility. These responses, provided by seventy-five percent (n=413) of all participants, were grouped into five thematic categories ("was forced", "should have been safer", "was not clear", let it happen" and "consensual") by two different readers (X^2 =102, df=5, p<0.001). The results were quantified to give the distributions seen in Figures 22 and Figure 23 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). Chi square tests revealed that form of non-consent had a significant influence on participants' written responses (Table 25). Relationship type was also found to have a statistically significant influence on participants' written responses but only in scenarios involving "change of mind" and "incapable". As relationship does have some influence over participants written responses and a cursory glance at the distributions of participants responses indicates its not simply a difference in magnitude, the exact influence of form of non-consent will need to be examined within each relationship.

Figure 22: Form of non-consent thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in acquaintance scenarios

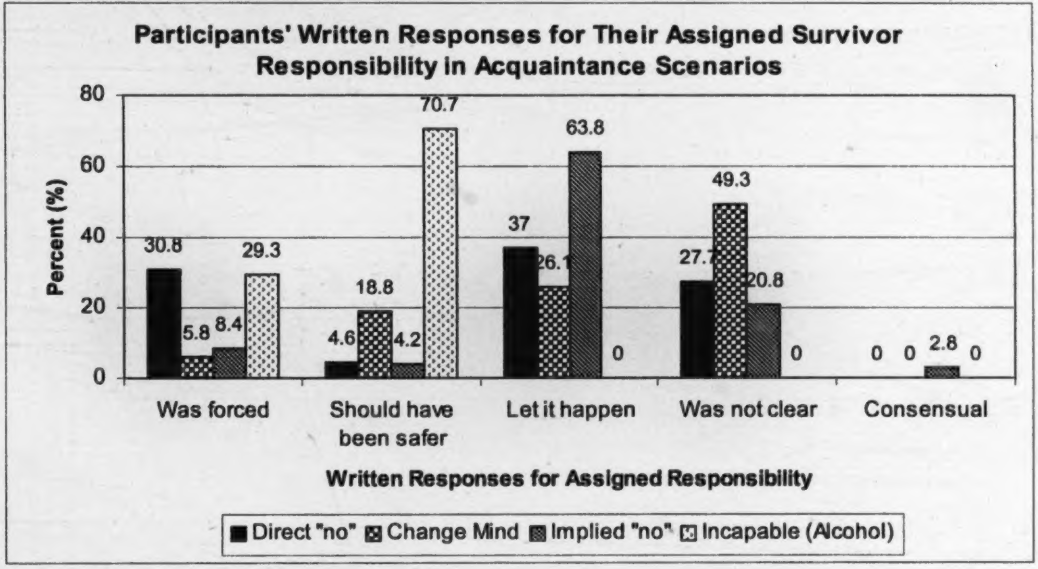


Figure 23: Form of non-consent thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in relationship scenarios

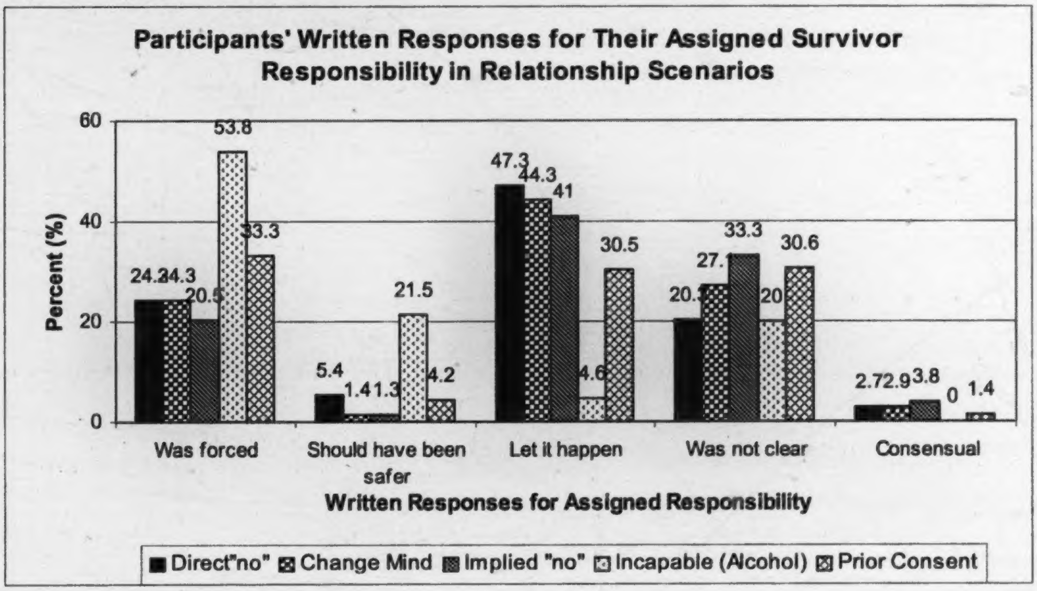


Table 25: Chi square tests examining the influence of form of non-consent and relationship type on participants' written responses to survivor responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance ($p<0.1$)
Acquaintance Scenarios	184	12	<0.001
Relationship Scenarios	90.6	16	<0.001
"Direct 'no'" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	11	4	>0.01
"Change of Mind" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	28	4	<0.001
"Implied 'no'" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	4.3	4	>0.01
"Incapable" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	81.4	4	<0.001

Upon examining the role of form of non-consent in acquaintance scenarios (Figure 22), participants were more likely to indicate that the survivor "was forced" as the form of non-consent became more blatant from "Change of mind" to "Implied 'no'" to "Direct 'no'" or "Incapable". This distribution is similar to participants definitions of scenarios as participants were more likely to define scenarios as "sexual assault/rape" when the form of non-consent became more blatant. Participants written responses seem to indicate what the participants felt the survivor could have done, if anything, to have avoided or stopped the sexual assault. When the form of non-consent was "Incapable" the majority (71%, n=113) of participants indicated that the survivor "should have been safer" which suggests participants felt the survivor should have been able to avoid the situation. In scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Change of mind", "Implied 'no'", or "Direct 'no'" participants were more likely to suggest the survivor could have stopped the assault. In "Change of mind" scenarios 49% (n=78) of participants indicated the survivor "was not clear" while 47% (n=75) and 64% (n=102) indicated the survivor "let it happen" when the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" or "Implied 'no'" respectively. Recalling that assigned survivor responsibility was highest in "Direct 'no'" scenarios followed by "Implied 'no'" scenarios these findings also support the previously proposed shift from "was forced" to "let it happen" as assigned survivor responsibility increases.

In relationship scenarios (Figure 23), with the exception of "Implied 'no'" (8%, n=13), participants were more likely to indicate that the survivor "was forced" as the form of non-consent became more blatant from "Change of mind" to "Direct 'no' or "Implied 'no'" to "Prior consent" to "Incapable". Unlike acquaintance scenarios where the majority of participants indicated that the survivor "should have been safer" when the form of non-consent was "Incapable", the majority (54%, n=86) of participants indicated that the survivor "was forced" suggesting that they felt there was nothing the survivor could do to stop or avoid the situation. The majority of participants' responses for the other forms of non-consent, like those in acquaintance scenarios, were between "was not clear" and "let it happen." Forty-seven (n=75) and forty-four (n=42) percent of participants indicated that the survivor "let it happen" when the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" and "Change of mind" respectively. When the form of non-consent was "Implied 'no'" or "Prior consent" participants' responses were more evenly spread between "let it happen" (41%, n=66 and 31%, n=50 respectively) and "was not clear" (33%, n=53 and 31%, n=50 respectively). From participants' responses, "Prior consent" which was only considered in relationship scenarios, was similar to "Direct 'no'" and "Implied 'no'", although more blatant than either as "was forced" was selected more frequently (33%, n=53). These findings again support the proposed shift from " was forced" to "let it happen" as assigned survivor responsibility increases as "Direct 'no'" had the highest level of assigned survivor responsibility followed by "Change of mind".

Only "Change of mind" and "Incapable" were found to be statistically influenced by relationship type. In acquaintance scenarios when the form of non-consent was "Change of mind" only 6% (n=10) of participants felt the survivor "was forced" as compared to 24% (n=20) in relationship scenarios. In addition, forty-nine percent (n=78) of participants indicated they felt the survivor "was not clear" while another 26%(n=42) felt the survivor "let it happen". In relationship scenarios these two categories were nearly reversed with 44% (n=36) of participants indicating the survivor "let it happen" and only 27% (n=22) percent indicating the survivor "was not clear". From these responses it would appear that participants felt that survivors had more of an opportunity to prevent or stop the sexual assault in relationship scenarios ("let it happen") than they did in acquaintance scenarios ("was not clear").

In scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Incapable" participants were more likely to indicate the survivor "should have been safer" (71%, n=114) in acquaintance scenarios than they were in relationship scenarios (22%, n=35). Unlike scenarios involving "Change of mind" where the survivor was seen to have more control over her/his situation, in relationship scenarios survivors were viewed as having less control over their situation (54%, n=86 "was forced") as compared to acquaintance scenarios (29%, n=46 "was forced"). Given the level of trust that normally exists in a relationship it follows that participants would be less likely to indicate that the survivor "should have been safer".

Overall, the results indicated that participants' written responses correspond to their assigned survivor responsibility and their definitions of scenarios in that they were more likely to indicate the survivor "was forced" just like they were more likely to define the scenario as "sexual assault/rape" and less likely to indicate the survivor was responsible as the form of non-consent became more blatant. In addition, the results found in both relationship and acquaintance scenarios support the proposed shift from "was forced" to "should have been safer" to "was not clear" to "let it happen" as participants assigned level of survivor responsibility increases.

The results from the two scenarios influenced by relationship type seem to indicate that participants felt the survivor had the greatest opportunity to prevent or stop the sexual assault when the form of non-consent revolved around communication "change of mind" and not when it involved the survivor being more vulnerable "incapable". Participants' written responses seem to indicate that they felt the assumed level of trust, caring, and mutual respect thought to exist in relationships should have made it easier for the survivor to prevent and/or stop the sexual assault. This theory is also supported by the fact that participants were more likely to suggest that the survivor "was not clear" when the form of non-consent was "change of mind" in acquaintance scenarios but not in relationship scenarios.

Q4. Offender Responsibility -"How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not", "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the offender was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). Overall participants ranked offender responsibility high (either "entirely" or "mostly") regardless of the situation (Figure 24).

M-ANOVA tests indicate that both form of non-consent and relationship type had a significant influence on assigned offender responsibility (Table 26). From the distribution it appears that relationship type is the primary influence on assigned offender responsibility followed by form of non-consent. With the exception of "direct 'no'", offender responsibility is highest in relationship scenarios regardless of form of non-consent.

In both acquaintance and relationship scenarios, offender responsibility increases as the form of non-consent changes from "Change of mind" to "Implied 'no'", to "Direct 'no'" to "Prior consent" and finally to "Incapable". As was seen in the scenarios examining relationship and form of forced sexual activity, participants were more likely to assign higher levels of responsibility to offenders in scenarios that they mainly defined as "sexual assault"/"rape". This may explain why offender responsibility is higher when form of non-consent is "Direct 'no'" in acquaintance scenarios as compared to relationship scenarios as relationship scenarios involving "Direct 'no'" were less likely defined as "sexual assault"/"rape" as compared to acquaintance scenarios. From the results it appears that participants felt that offenders are more responsible in relationship scenarios and increasingly more responsible as the form of non-consent becomes more blatant.

Figure 24: Influence of Form of non-consent and Relationship Type on Assigned Offender Responsibility

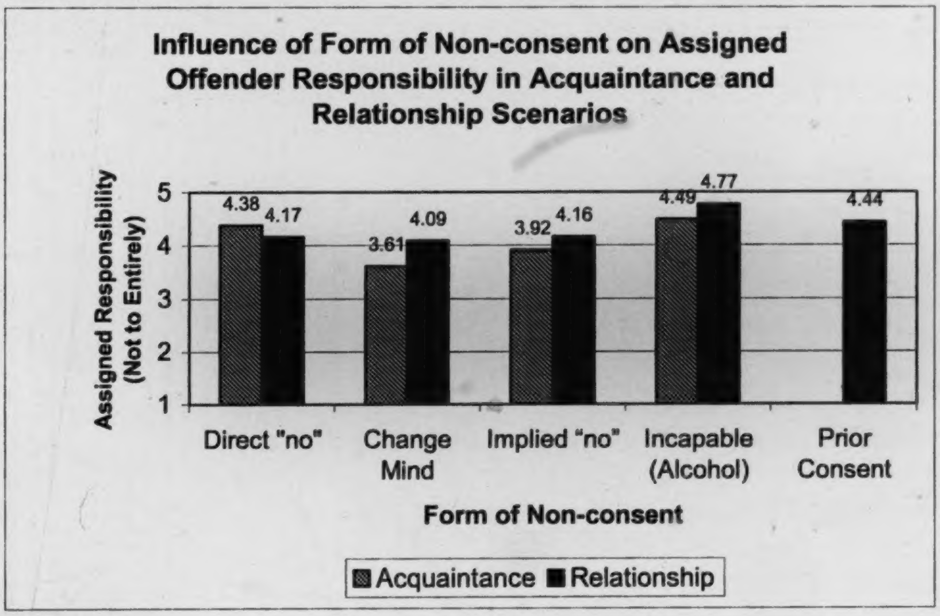


Table 26: M-ANOVA Between-subject effects of form of non-consent and relationship type on assigned offender responsibility

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square	F Statistic	Significance (p<0.01)
Form of Non-consent	83.4	4	20.9	36.5	<0.001
Relationship Type	11.3	1	11.3	19.5	<0.001
Form of Non-consent X Relationship Type	18.0	3	6.0	10.5	<0.001
Error	862	1509	0.572		

Written responses for assigned offender responsibility.

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of offender responsibility. These responses, provided by seventy-five percent (413) of all participants, were grouped into six thematic categories by two readers (X^2=102, df=5, p<0.001). The results were quantified to give the distributions seen in Figures 25 and 26 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). The categories that resulted were the same six categories that were used previously in the Relationship Type and Form of Forced Sexual Activity section. Again three of the six categories suggest the offender was aware that the situation was not consensual ("forced", "coerced", and "knew survivor wasn't consenting"), while only two suggest that the situation from the offenders perspective was not intentional ("misunderstood" and "hormones") and not directly under the control of the offender. Chi square tests indicate significant differences between forms of non-consent (Table 27). Significant differences were also found between relationship types but only when the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" or "Implied 'no'".

Figure 25: Form of non-consent thematic summary of participants' written responses to offender responsibility in acquaintance scenarios

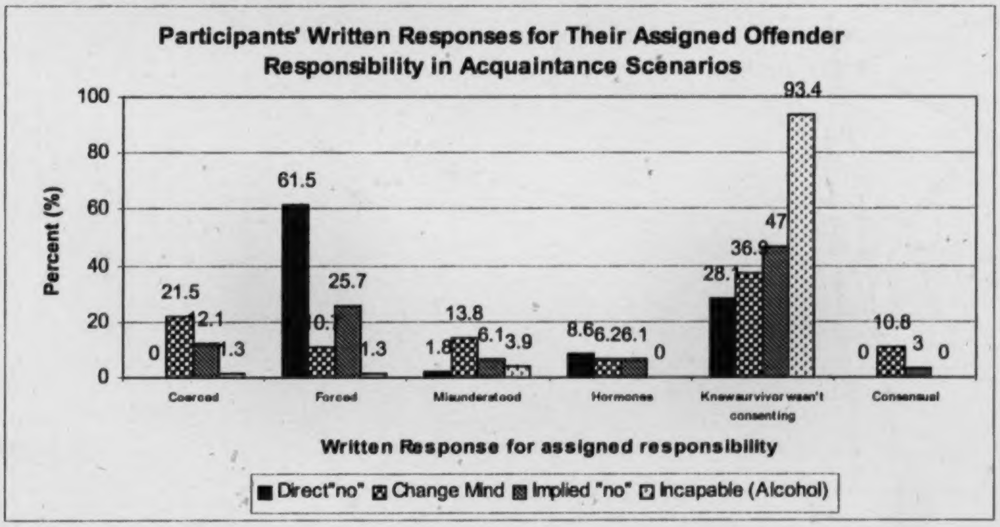


Figure 26: Form of non-consent thematic summary of participants' written responses to offender responsibility in relationship scenarios

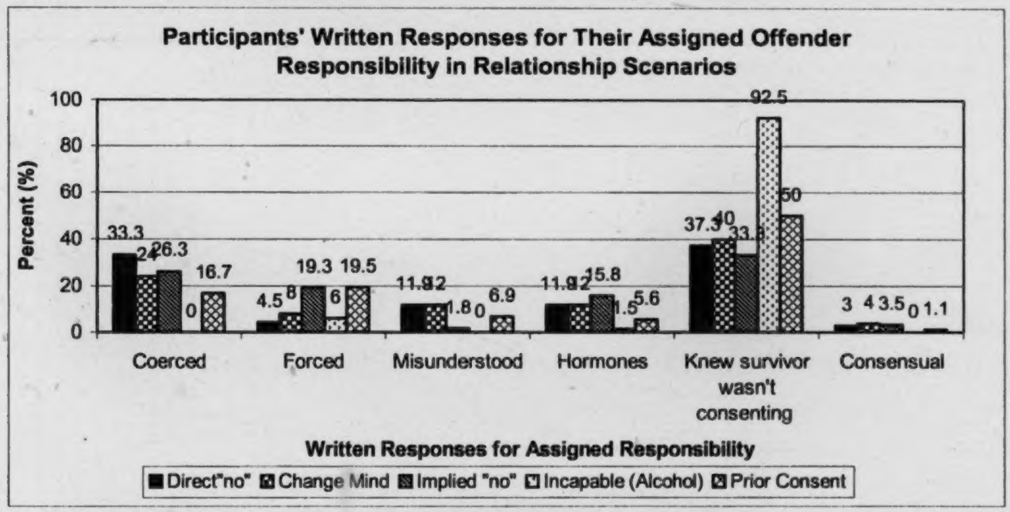


Table 27: Chi square tests examining the influence of form of non-consent and relationship type on participants written responses to offender responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance ($p<0.01$)
Acquaintance Scenarios	307	15	<0.001
Relationship Scenarios	167	20	<0.001
"Direct 'no'" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	113	5	<0.001
"Change of Mind" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	6.4	5	>0.01
"Implied 'no'" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	19	5	0.01
"Incapable" (Acq. Vs. Rel)	14	5	>0.01

With regards to the influence of form of non-consent in acquaintance scenarios participants indicated that the offender "forced" the survivor the most when the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" (61.5%, n=98) and least when the form of non-consent was "Incapable" (1.3%, n=2). When the form of non-consent was "Incapable", the majority of participants (93.4%, n=149) indicated that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting". Participants' written responses for "Implied 'no' were spread between "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (47%, n=75) and "forced" (25.7%, n=41). The greatest variability in written responses was found when the form of non-consent was "Change of mind" in that responses were spread between "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (36.9%, n=59), "coerced" (21.5%, n=34.4), "misunderstood/ hormones", and (20%, n=32).

Participants' written responses were more dispersed in relationship scenarios, with the highest percentage (92.5%, n=148 to 37.3%, n-60) of responses indicating the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" regardless of form of non-consent. The majority of participants indicated that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" when the form of non-consent was "Incapable" (92.5%, n=148) followed by "Prior consent" (50%, n=80). Although the majority of participants written responses for "Direct 'no'", "Implied 'no'", and "Change of mind" when combined ("knew survivor wasn't consenting"," forced", and "coerced") indicate that the offender knew the survivor wasn't consenting (75.1% (n=120), 78.9% (n=126), and 72% (n=115) respectively), participants were also more likely to indicate the offender "misunderstood" or was over come by "hormones" (24% (n=38), 17.6% (n=28), and 24% (n=38) respectively).

Only "Direct 'no'" and "Implied 'no'" were found to be statistically influenced by relationship type. In both scenarios participants written responses are more evenly spread among the categories when relationship type was "relationship". When form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" the majority of participants indicated that the offender "forced" (61.5%, n=98) the survivor in acquaintance scenarios while in relationship scenarios the majority of responses was spread between "knew the survivor wasn't consenting"(37.3%, n=69) and "coerced" (33.3%, n=53). In addition, twenty-four percent (n=38) of participants also indicated that the offender "misunderstood" or was over come by "hormones" in relationship scenarios as compared to only 10% (n=16) in acquaintance scenarios. When form of non-consent was "Implied 'no'" participants were most likely to indicate that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (47%, n=75) followed by "forced" (25.5%, n=41) in acquaintance scenarios. In relationship scenarios however the majority of participants responses were spread between "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" (33.3%, n=53) and "coerced"(26.3%, n=42).

The majority of participants' written responses to assigned offender responsibility indicated that the offender was aware that he/she did not have consent ("forced", "coerced", "knew the survivor wasn't consenting"). This is interesting as not all scenarios were defined as "sexual assault" or "rape" (Figure 19). These findings further support the idea that the absence of consent is not sufficient for participants to define a situation as "sexual assault" or "rape". In addition, although offender responsibility is higher in relationship scenarios than acquaintance scenarios, participants' responses were more diverse and "misunderstood" or "hormones" were more likely to be sited as reasons for the assault suggesting that offenders aren't as responsible in relationship scenarios. It may be the inherent beliefs about relationships (caring, trustworthy, open, safe and so on) that lead participants to more willingly give offenders the benefit of the doubt in relationship scenarios than in acquaintance scenarios.

Influence of Survivor Gender

The influence of survivor gender was explored within an acquaintance setting varying the form of non-consent between "Direct 'no'" and "incapable" (due to alcohol).

Q1: Definition of Scenario - "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Table 28 summaries participants' responses to the four scenarios developed to look at the influence of survivor gender. Although all scenarios in this section were defined as "sexual assault/rape" (mean>3.5), t-tests indicate that survivor gender had a significant influence on participants' definitions of scenarios (Table 29). With regards to the two forms of non-consent used in this section as outlined in Figure 27, scenarios involving male survivors were more likely defined as "sexual assault/rape" (4.81 "Direct 'no'" and 4.82 "Incapable") than those involving female survivors (3.99 "Direct 'no'" and "4.59 "Incapable").

The most prominent difference between male and female survivors was found in scenarios where the form of non-consent was “Direct ‘no’” (3.99 “female” and 4.81 “male”). From the summary of participants responses in Table 28 it can be seen that 98% (n=178) of participants defined “Direct ‘no’” scenarios with male survivors as “sexual assault” or “rape” while only 62% (n=110) defined scenarios with female survivors as “sexual assault” or “rape. In addition, twenty-seven percent (n=48) of participants defined the scenarios with a female survivor as miscommunication.

Finally, although no significant difference was found between the two scenarios involving male survivors, a significant difference was found between the two scenarios involving female survivors. Unlike the scenarios involving male survivors where over 95% (n=177) of participants defined the scenarios as “sexual assault/rape”, 93% (n=171) of participants defined scenarios involving a female survivor and “Incapable” as “sexual assault/rape” while only 62% (n=110) defined scenarios involving a female survivor and “direct ‘no’” as “sexual assault/rape”. In addition, eighty-six percent (n=156) of scenarios involving male survivors and “Direct ‘no’” were defined as “rape” while only 46% (n=82) were defined as “rape” in the same scenario when the survivor was female. This latter finding further supports the notion that a noteworthy difference between individuals' definitions of “sexual assault” and “rape” still exists. Although it is unclear at this point why participants were more likely to define scenarios involving male survivors as “sexual assault”/”rape” than scenarios involving female survivors, it is clear that survivor gender does have an influence.

Table 28: Participants' responses to, "In general, what would you consider the [scenario] to be a case of?"

Scenario			Distribution				
			Normal (1)	**Miscommunication (2)**	**Sexual Harassment (3)**	**Sexual Assault (4)**	**Rape (5)**
Gender of Survivor	**Form of Non-Consent**	**Mean ± SD**	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***
Male	Direct “‘no”	4.81 ± 0.55	1*(2)*	0*()*	1*(1)*	12*(22)*	86*(156)*
Female	Direct “‘no”	3.99 ± 1.49	9*(16)*	27*(48)*	3*(6)*	16*(28)*	46*(82)*
Male	Alcohol	4.83 ± 0.46	0*()*	1*(1)*	2*(3)*	12*(22)*	85*(155)*
Female	Alcohol	4.59 ± 0.91	3*(5)*	4*(7)*	1*(2)*	17*(31)*	76*(140)*

Figure 27: Influence of Survivor Gender on Participants' Definition of Scenarios

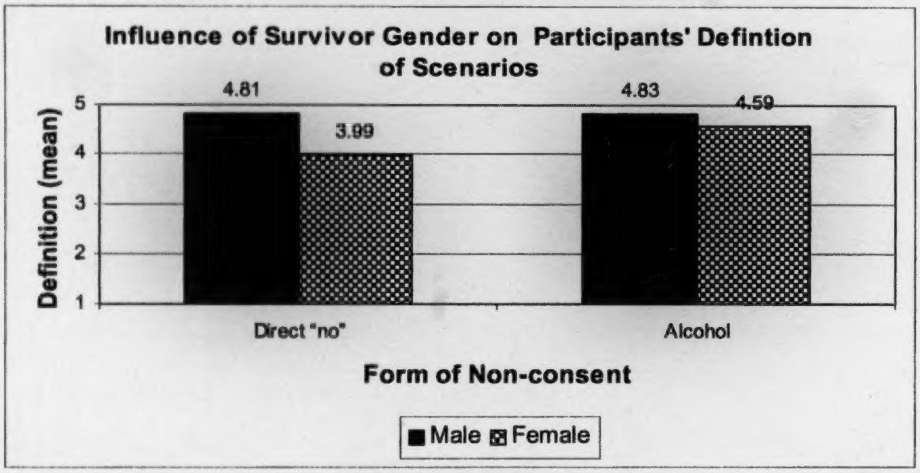


Table 29: Independent Samples t-Tests of the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on participants' definition of scenarios

Variables	T	(df)	Mean Difference	Standard Error Difference (+/-)	99% Confidence Interval		Significance (p<0.01)
Male X Form of Non-consent	-0.291	361	-0.155	0.524	-0.121	0.089	>0.01
Female X Form of Non-consent	-7.473	362	-0.965	0.129	-1.218	-0.711	<0.001
Direct "no" X Gender	10.09	360	1.191	0.118	0.959	1.423	<0.001
Alcohol X Gender	3.222	363	0.242	0.075	0.094	0.390	<0.001

Q2: Confidence in Definition of Scenario - "How sure are you with your selected response [to the scenario]?"

Participants were asked to indicate how confident they were ("very unsure", "unsure", "somewhat sure", "sure" or "very sure") with their definition of the given scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). Participants were least confident with their response to the scenario involving a female survivor and "Direct 'no'" (2.81 ± 1.02) and most confident with the scenario involving a male survivor and "Direct 'no'" (3.55 ± 0.69) (Figure 27). Survivor gender was found to be significantly different in scenarios involving "direct 'no'" but not in scenarios involving "incapable" (Table 28). Participants were more confident with their definitions of scenarios involving male survivors (3.55) than they were with those involving female survivors. Again, as with the other variables (relationship type, form of forced sexual activity and form of non-consent), participants were most confident in scenarios that they were most likely to define as sexual assault or rape (Figure 28).

Figure 28: The influence of survivor gender on participants' reported level of confidence

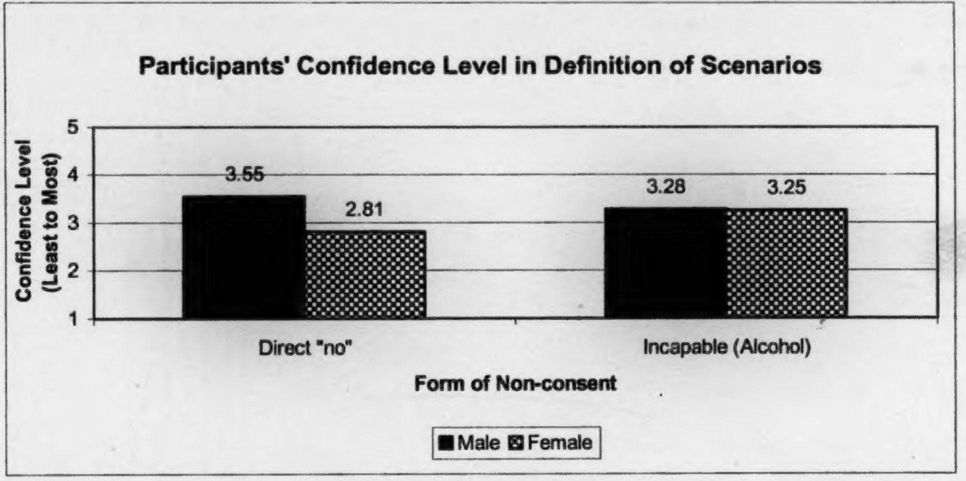


Table 30: Independent Samples t-Tests of the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on participants' level of confidence

Variables	T	(df)	Mean Difference	Standard Error Difference (+/-)	99% Confidence Interval		Significance (p<0.01)
Male X Form of Non-consent	-3.107	361	-0.271	0.087	-0.442	-0.099	<0.001
Female X Form of Non-consent	3.505	362	0.517	0.147	0.227	0.807	<0.001
Direct "'no" X Gender	-8.941	360	-0.819	0.092	-0.999	-0.639	<0.001
Alcohol X Gender	-0.220	363	-0318	0.144	-0.314	0.252	>0.01

Q3. Survivor Responsibility - "How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not", "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the survivor was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for complete distribution of responses). Survivor responsibility was highest when survivor gender was female and form of non-consent was "incapable" ("a little" 2.13) and lowest when survivor gender was male and form of non-consent was "direct 'no'" ("not responsible" 1.2) (Figure 29). T-tests indicated that survivor gender had a significant influence on assigned survivor responsibility (Table 31). Assigned survivor responsibility was highest in scenarios involving female survivors and lowest in scenarios involving male survivors. In scenarios involving male survivors, participants indicated that the male survivor was "not" responsible (mean<1.5) in either scenario while participants indicated the survivor was "a little" responsible in both scenarios when the gender of survivor was changed from male to female (Figure 29). As before, assigned survivor responsibility was lowest in scenarios that were mainly defined as "sexual assault/rape" and highest in scenarios that were not defined as "sexual assault/rape".

Figure 29: Influence of Survivor Gender on Assigned Survivor Responsibility

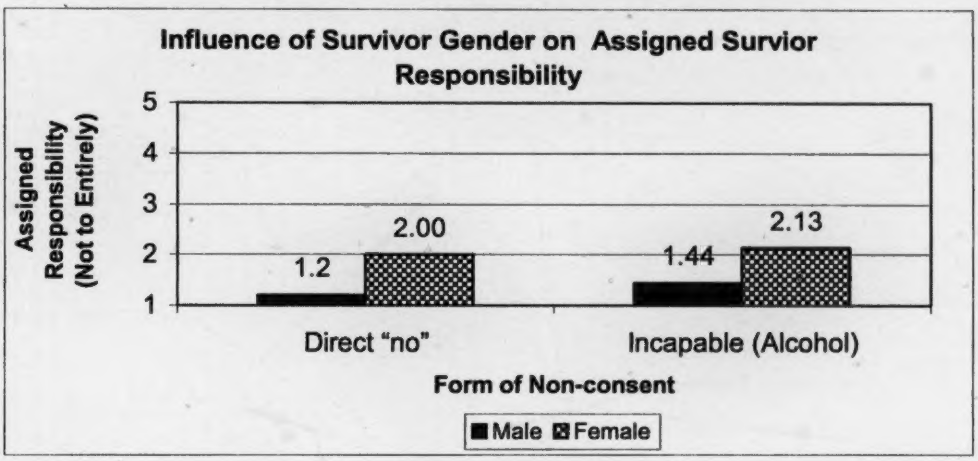


Table 31: Independent Samples t-Tests of the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on assigned survivor responsibility

Variables	**T**	**(df)**	**Mean Difference**	**Standard Error Difference (+/-)**	**99% Confidence Interval**		**Significance (p<0.01)**
Male X Form of Non-consent	-3.181	361	-0.233	0.073	-0.377	-0.089	<0.001
Female X Form of Non-consent	3.944	362	0.442	0.112	0.222	0.663	<0.01
Direct "'no" X Gender	-14.63	360	-1.375	0.094	-1.559	-1.190	<0.001
Alcohol X Gender	-7.323	363	-0.699	0.095	-0.887	-0.512	<0.001

Written responses for assigned survivor responsibility.

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of survivor responsibility. These responses, provided by eighty-seven percent (475) of all participants were grouped into five thematic categories ("was forced", "should have been safer", "was not clear", let it happen" and "consensual") by two separate readers ((X^2 =96, df=5, p<0.001). The results were quantified to give the distribution seen in Figure 30 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). Chi square tests revealed that survivor gender and form of non-consent had significant influences on participants' written responses (Table 32).

Figure 30: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to survivor responsibility in survivor gender scenarios

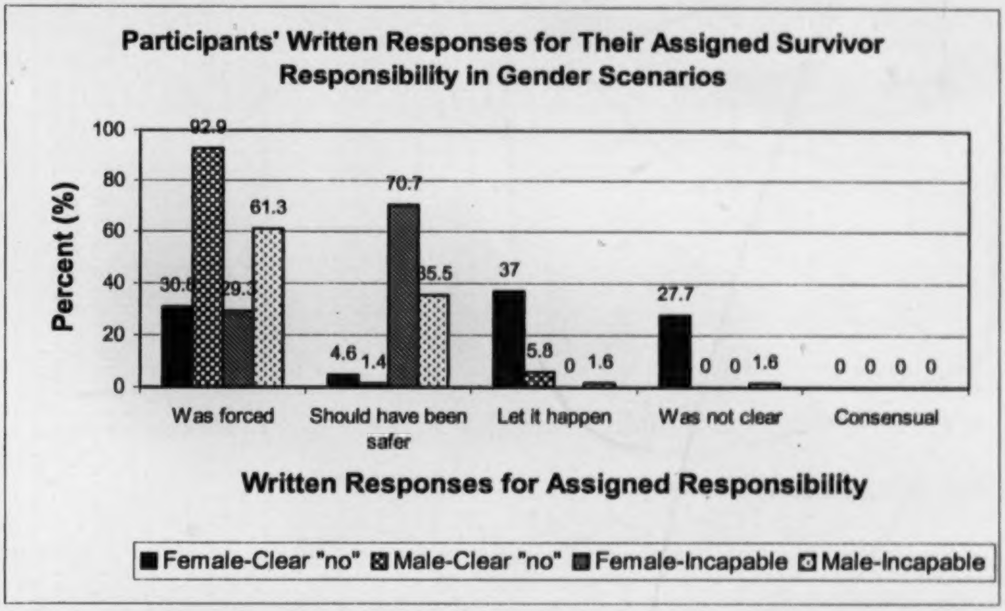


Table 32: Chi square tests examining the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on participants' written responses to survivor responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance ($p<0.01$)
Gender vs. "Direct 'no'"	162	5	<0.001
Gender vs. "Incapable"	103	4	<0.001
Male "Direct 'no'" vs. Male "Incapable"	224	5	<0.001
Female "Direct 'no'" vs. Female "Incapable"	69	5	<0.001

The majority of participants indicated that the survivor "was forced" (92.9%, n=169 "Direct 'no'" and 61.3%, n=112 "Incapable") in both scenarios involving male survivors. In similar scenarios involving female survivors, although "was forced" was cited, it was only indicated in about thirty percent of participants' written responses. In addition to "was forced", in female scenarios 71% (n=129) of participants indicated the survivor "should have been safer" when the form of non-consent was "Incapable". When the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" 37% (n=67) of participants indicated that the survivor "let it happen" and 28% (n=51) indicated that the survivor "was not clear".

Keeping with the theory that "was forced" was indicated in situations where participants felt the survivor was least responsible, it would appear that participants felt that female survivors had more of an opportunity to prevent or stop the sexual assault from happening than male survivors. As gender was the only variable altered in these scenarios these results are interesting, as one would expect that male survivors would be perceived as having more control and ability to prevent or stop the sexual assault. From this study it is unclear as to why participants felt female survivors had more of an opportunity to alter or prevent the sexual assault then male survivors. It could be that participants are not used to seeing male survivors and have not had the opportunity to analyze how such situations could be altered or prevented. It may also be that participants believe that offender motivation is different when male victims are chosen instead of females. As "was forced" was cited more in male sexual assaults, participants may believe that offenders who assault males are doing it largely for the purpose of attaining "power". Whereas, when offends assault females it could be for power but also because of a miscommunication or misunderstanding of the situation. The exact reason for why assigned survivor responsibility is higher for female survivors than it is for male survivors cannot be determined without further studies.

Q4. Offender Responsibility - "How responsible was [person x] for what happened?"

Participants were asked to indicate how responsible ("not" "a little", "somewhat", "mostly" or "entirely") they felt the offender was for what happened in the scenario (See Appendix E for the complete distribution of responses). Assigned offender responsibility was highest in scenarios involving male survivors and lowest in scenarios involving female survivors (Figure 31). T-tests revealed that survivor gender had a significant influence on assigned offender responsibility (Table 33). No significant differences were found between assigned offender responsibility when form of non-consent was "direct 'no'" or "incapable" within genders. Assigned offender responsibility was "entirely" (mean>4.5) when survivor gender was male and "mostly" (3.5<mean<4.5) when survivor gender was female. Again, offender responsibility is highest in scenarios where the majority of participants defined the situation as "sexual assault" or "rape".

Figure 31: Influence of Survivor Gender on Assigned Offender Responsibility

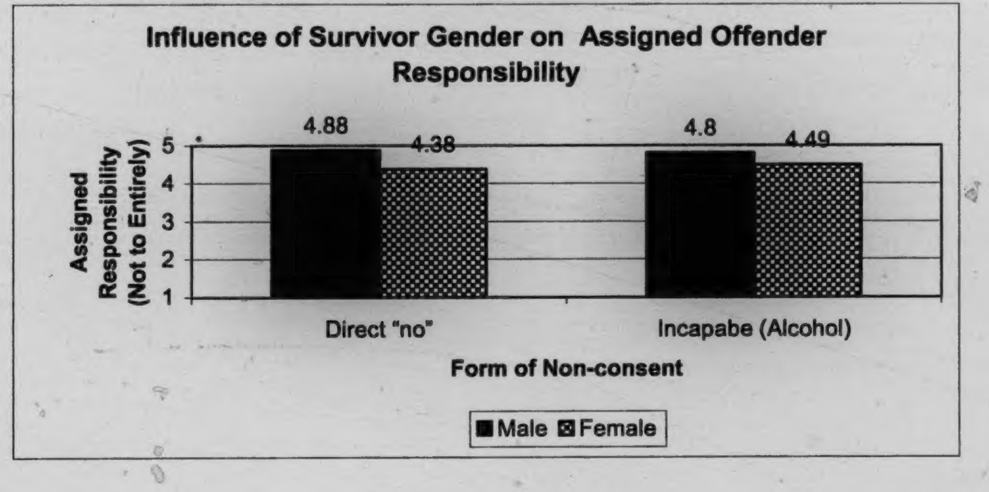


Table 33: Independent Samples t-Tests of the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on assigned offender responsibility

Variables	T	(df)	Mean Difference	Standard Error Difference (+/-)	99% Confidence Interval		Significance (p<0.01)
Male X Form of Non-consent	1.680	361	0.089	0.053	-0.015	0.193	>0.01
Female X Form of Non-consent	-4.165	362	-0.428	0.079	-0.483	-0.173	>0.01
Direct "no" X Gender	11.08	360	0.724	0.065	0.595	0.852	<0.001
Alcohol X Gender	4.445	363	0.306	0.069	-0.015	0.193	>0.01

Written responses for assigned offender responsibility.

Participants were asked to write a brief explanation for their assigned level of offender responsibility. These responses, provided by eighty-nine percent (492) of all participants, were grouped into six thematic categories by two separate readers (X^2=96, df=5, p<0.001). The results were quantified to give the distribution seen in Figure 32 (See Appendix F for selected written responses within each category). Six categories resulted, five of which were the same categories that were found when examining the roles of Relationship Type, Form of Forced Sexual Activity, and Form of Consent ("forced", "coerced", "knew survivor wasn't consenting", "misunderstood", and "hormones") and the six category was that the offender "thought" the survivor was gay.

As before, three of the six categories suggest the offender was aware that the situations was not consensual ("forced", "coerced", and "knew survivor wasn't consenting"), while the other three suggest that the situation from the offenders perspective was not intentional ("misunderstood", "hormones", and "thought survivor gay") and not directly under the control of the offender. Chi square tests revealed significant differences in the distribution of participant's written responses between forms of non-consent within gender (Table 34). This influence of survivor gender, however, was only found to be significant in scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'".

Figure 32: Thematic summary of participants' written responses to offender responsibility in survivor gender scenarios

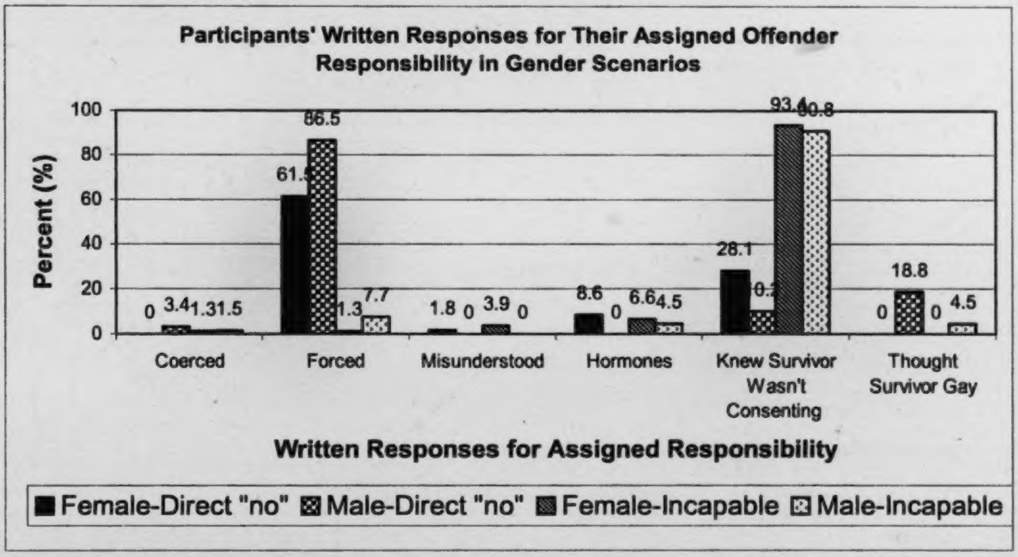


Table 34: Chi square tests examining the influence of survivor gender and form of non-consent on participants' written responses to offender responsibility

Variables Tested	X^2	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Significance (p<0.01)
Gender vs. "Direct 'no'"	31	4	<0.001
Gender vs. "Incapable"	12	4	>0.01
Male "Direct 'no'" vs. Male "Incapable"	130	4	<0.001
Female "Direct 'no'" vs. Female "Incapable"	175	4	<0.001

In scenarios involving a male survivor where the form of non-consent was "Direct 'no'" 86% (n=158) of participants indicated that the offender had "forced" the survivor while only 62% (n=114) indicated that the offender had "forced" the survivor in similar scenarios involving a female survivor. In addition to "forced", 28% (n=52) of participants also indicated that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting" in scenarios involving a female survivor. In scenarios where the form of non-consent was "Incapable" over 90% (n=172) of participants indicated that the offender "knew the survivor wasn't consenting". Interestingly, in both scenarios involving male survivors participants also indicated that the offender must have "thought survivor was gay" (19%, n=35 "Direct 'no'" and 5%, n=9 "Incapable") as an explanation for the incident. Although overall less than twenty percent of individuals mentioned the sexual orientation of the survivor, it still bears noting as it supports the commonly held beliefs that sexual assault is a result of miscommunication or misunderstanding and often motivated by sex (Wie *et al*, 2001; Ullman, 2002; Highby, 2001; Abbey 1991; McCaw and Senn, 1998).

As all scenarios in this section were defined as "sexual assault" or "rape", it is not surprising that the majority of participants' responses fell between "forced" and "knew survivor wasn't consenting", indicating that the offender did not have consent from the survivor. Again, although responses indicated that the offender knew that he/she did not have consent, offenders were viewed as being less forceful when the survivor was female than when the survivor was male.

Compatibility Between Written Responses for Assigned Survivor and Offender Responsibility

In the process of compiling participants written explanations for their assigned responsibility levels for survivors and offenders it was observed that many participants explanations for how and why the survivor or offender was responsible were often contradictory of each other (Table 35). Further, although the majority of participants indicated that the offender was more responsible than the survivor for the sexual assault, their written explanations did not necessarily concur with this.

Table 35: Selected written responses for assigned survivor responsibility with corresponding written response for assigned offender responsibility.

Written Reponses for Assigned Responsibility	
Survivor	**Offender**
She was giving mixed signals to a guy who was probably drunk	Drunk or not, he was being pushy – Amy needs to have a serious talk with him later
She let things go really far before she pushed the panic button. She needs to be more assertive!	He should have listened.
She could have left earlier	He was obviously trying to coax her into doing more than she wanted. It was good that he left.
After she said "of course I love you," that could be viewed as consent. If they were as close as it sounds, if she would have said no again, he would have stopped.	He didn't take heed of what she said the first time but I could understand why he might have thought she consented. And with men, sometimes just lying there does not make it clear that you're not interested. He shouldn't have pressured her using guilt.
If she didn't want to, she should have repeated "no". It doesn't sound like he physically forced her	He should not have tried to convince her. The first no means no
He did make himself unsafe by getting drunk enough to pass out	Is a lack of consent the same as saying "no"? If he drugged Bill then it would be rape, but otherwise they were both drunk. Then again he
She should have told him to leave, not worrying about what he thought. If he was a guy of integrity he would have respected her actions	He should have listened to her. She said, "no" three times and yet he persisted, obviously he cares only about sex and not about her feelings
She led him to believe she wanted sex and to stop suddenly she needed to be less passive and more forceful	He should have listened to Stacey … besides he got action, why'd he need more?
She invited him home. She had to expect something was going to happen. Doesn't sound like she put up too much of a fight	She said "no" and he pushed forward
She should say "screw off, " and she should realize any guy pushing her like that should be alone. She just kept pulling him back	He should have respected her choices, obviously he doesn't care for her.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The main goal of this study was to determine whether or not individuals' global perceptions (what they would tell others they believed about sexual assault) were congruent with their situational perceptions (how they reacted to sexual assault scenarios). As studies have shown, defining an experience as sexual assault is an important step in a survivor's recovery process (Ullman, 1996; Botta and Pingree, 1997). Further as the survivor's recovery process can be greatly affected by other's responses to the assault, it is also important for those directly supporting the survivor as well as society as a whole to be able to identify and define sexual assault (Ullman, 2001). As such, it was also desirable to determine what situational factors were needed in order for individuals to define a situation as sexual assault.

Congruency Between Global and Personal Perceptions

In regards to individual's global perceptions, the results of this study indicate that the majority of participants (in most cases over 90%) were aware of the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent. The areas where individuals were least likely to define a situation as sexual assault were in situations involving forced kissing (68%, n=372) or coercion (76%, n=416). The majority of participants (75%) indicated that they believed the majority of sexual assaults occurred between acquaintances. In addition, participants estimated that one in two women and one in five men would be sexually assault at some point in their life, both of which were almost two times that of the lifetime prevalence rates estimated by the FBI (Rennison, 1999). There was no question that participants viewed sexual assault as a serious crime as 93% (n=497) indicated that it was "extremely serious" or "very serious". When asked about the cause of sexual assault, 53% (n=251) indicated it was caused by a want for "power", while 29% (n=137) indicated it was caused by a need for "sex" following which, 10% (n=47) indicated it was a result of "miscommunication". In terms of prevention, 38% (n=187) of individuals indicated that education and awareness on sexual assault was needed, while others indicated that individuals needed to "avoid certain behaviors" (27%, n=133), "be more cautious" (23%, n=113), and " communicate more clearly" (23%, n=113).

From participants' global perceptions about sexual assault, it was expected that they would correctly define situations as sexual assault and assign a high level of responsibility to the offender and some responsibility, although minimal, to the survivor. In addition, it was expected that participants' reasons for assigned survivor and offender responsibility would be similar to those cited in the cause and prevention sections of participants' global perceptions. The results assessing participants' situational perceptions, however, were not similar to those expected. Only eleven of the eighteen (61%) scenarios were defined as either sexual assault or rape by the majority of participants. In addition, although assigned survivor responsibility was lower than assigned offender responsibility, it was varied and not minimal as was expected given that over 50% of participants felt sexual assault was motivated by "power". Further, the majority of the reasons given for assigned survivor responsibility focused on ways in which the survivor could have prevented or avoided the assault and not on the fact that the survivor was forced. Although the majority of reasons for assigned offender responsibility indicated that the offender knew the survivor wasn't consenting, very few actually indicated that offender had forced the survivor. Overall, as was hypothesized, participants' situational perceptions of sexual assault were different than their global perceptions. Incongruence was also found within individuals' situational perceptions as evidenced in participants written explanations for assigned survivor and offender responsibility. Although the majority of participants indicated that the offender was more responsible than the survivor for the sexual assault, their written explanations did not necessarily concur with this.

Why might individuals' global perceptions about sexual assault be different from their situational perceptions? Though further in-depth studies are needed to conclusively state why individuals global and situational perceptions about sexual assault are different, I would like to discuss two possible explanations; 1) perceived seriousness and necessary punishment of sexual assault and 2) political correctness. As previously stated, the majority of participants indicated that they felt sexual assault was a "very serious" or "extremely serious" offense. When asked to explain their response, 54% (n=241) of participants indicated that sexual assault is a "violation of personal rights", 28% (n=125) indicated "physical and psychological impacts", and 17% (n=76) discussed the "lasting impact" sexual assault has on survivors. Taking this and the fact that in our society it is generally important for the punishment to fit the crime, it would follow, though not explored in this study, that the majority of individuals would feel that perpetrators of sexual assault should be severely punished.

Though it is important not to diminish the seriousness of sexual assault, there may be a problem with the perceived associated punishment. First of all, though many people believe the punishments for offenders of sexual assault are severe and in many cases have life-long ramifications for the offender, this is rarely the case. A study conducted by Statistics Canada (1993) found that only six percent of all sexual assault were reported to the police of which 40% resulted in charges being laid. From the charges laid, 67% resulted in a guilty conviction of which 50% resulted in a jail term. This translates to only 0.8% of all sexual assaults in Canada resulting in a jail term. Secondly, and more importantly, as individuals are inclined to believe that sexual assault is a very serious crime for which an offender should be severally punished, they will most likely exercise caution in labeling someone as an offender. In addition to the punishment fitting the crime, the crime and punishment will also need to fit the offender. Because of this, individuals are likely, consciously or unconsciously, to perceive that an individual capable of committing such an offense will express or lack certain characteristics. Traditionally, offenders are perceived as sinister, psychopathic, and/or pure evil individuals who lack the ability to be a good person and be involved in their community (i.e. pillar in the community, high standing official, doctor, lawyer, religious leader, parent, teacher, etc.) (Gordon and Porporino, 1991).

As anyone can commit a sexual assault regardless of their station or status in society, it can be problematic for individuals to have a particular perception of what characteristics constitute an offender. Unfortunately, in the case of sexual assault, as this and other studies have demonstrated, individuals were more likely to define certain situations as sexual assault as the characteristics of the offender were altered (DeKeseredy *et al*, 1993; Cowan, 2000; Verberg *et al*, 2000). Further, when an individual who is accused of sexual assault does not have the characteristics believed to fit with an offender, others must come up with reasons and explanations to explain the situation. Commonly heard explanations such as "it must have been a misunderstanding", " she must not have been clear", "he must have thought she said, 'yes'", "he did not mean to", "he must have got caught up in the moment", "he could not help himself", "she must be lying" or "she is just trying to get back at him" could all serve as examples of justifying an offender's behavior such that they he/she is not grouped with "true" sexual offenders who are not concerned about others and sexually assault others for "power". In light of all of this, the disparity between individuals' global and situational perceptions may be largely explained by the fact that perpetrators in the majority of the scenarios did not possess the characteristics the participants expected of perpetrators.

Political correctness is another possible explanation for the incongruence between participant's situational and global perceptions. There is no question that sexual assault is a politically charged issue and as such it is possible that participants may have reported responses that they perceived to be "correct" even if they themselves did not believe it. Support for this theory was found in both participants' global and situational perceptions. In participants' global perceptions, participants over-estimated the lifetime prevalence of sexual assault for both males and females by a factor of two. In addition, the majority of participants cited that sexual assault was caused by a need for "power", an explanation that is widely circulated in the media and educational presentations. In situational perceptions, however, only one third of the explanations for the assault were about "power".

The less participants defined scenarios as sexual assault or rape, the more likely they were to report being uncertain with their definition. Higher levels of uncertainty were also observed the further scenarios deviated from the traditional sexual assault. Although it is possible that participants were unsure of what was taking place in many of the scenarios, it is also possible that participants reported higher levels of uncertainty because they thought they should identify the situation as sexual assault/rape, even if they disagreed. It may also be of value to recall that 33% (n=181) of participants defined an obviously consensual situation as nonconsensual in the global perceptions section. That individuals may be politically correct when addressing the issue of sexual assault is not necessarily a new or surprising theory. The Rape Myth Scale, which asks individuals to rate their beliefs about certain sexual assault myths by stating the myth in several different ways, is a good example of this (Lonsway and Fitzgerald, 1994). Studies using this scale have shown that participants were most likely to indicate that they agreed with the myth when it was stated in a less obvious or expected manner (LoVerso, 2001; Lonsway and Fitzgerald, 1994; Koss *et al*, 1993). Political correctness can be very problematic as it may lead researchers and educators to believe there has been further progress in addressing the issue of sexual assault than there has been.

Further research is needed to determine the influence, if any, of the relationship between reported seriousness and perceived punishment as well as the influence of political correctness on participants' reported beliefs about sexual assault. Despite this, knowing that individuals' global and situational perceptions are different is important for educators to be mindful of when developing, updating, and presenting education and awareness programs. In addition, as it is very likely that individuals will not apply their global perceptions to their own experiences it is also important for crisis workers to be aware of this and the inner turmoil that may ensue for survivors.

Defining Sexual Assault: Influence of Variables

The second major purpose of this study was to determine what factors individuals consider when deciding whether a situation was sexual assault or not. Of particular interest was whether knowledge of the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent were sufficient for individuals to define situations as sexual assault. In addition to these two factors, the influence of relationship type and survivor gender was also examined.

Even though all the scenarios used in this study fit the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent, only eleven (61%) of the scenarios were predominantly defined as sexual assault or rape. As the majority of participants (>90%) were able to correctly identify the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent, these results tell us that knowledge of the legal definitions are not necessarily enough for an individual to define a situation as sexual assault. Overall, participants were more likely to define scenarios as sexual assault or rape the closer the scenarios were to the traditional sexual assault (stranger, forced intercourse, direct "no"). In addition, although participants consistently assigned high levels of responsibility to offenders, survivor's responsibility increased the more the scenarios deviated from the traditional sexual assault.

Relationship Type

Interestingly, relationship type was found to have the most influence on whether or not participants defined certain situations as sexual assault or not. Participants were more likely to define scenarios as sexual assault or rape as the familiarity between both parties decreased from relationship to stranger. With the exception of acquaintance scenarios involving forced intercourse, more participants defined scenarios involving strangers as sexual assault or rape than similar scenarios involving acquaintances and relationships. Participants were also more likely to assign higher levels of responsibility to the survivor in relationship scenarios as compared to stranger or acquaintance scenarios. Further, participants written responses for assigned survivor and offender responsibility were more likely to indicate that the offender "did not mean to" sexually assault the survivor and that the survivor "was unclear" or "let it happen" in relationship scenarios as compared to stranger and acquaintance scenarios.

Further studies are needed to determine the exact reason for why participants were continually less likely to define scenarios as sexual assault as the relationship changed from stranger to relationship. It may be that as the relationship changed from stranger to relationship, participants did not feel that the individual committing the sexual assault fit their idea of an offender in that they were nice, able to be in a relationship for a while, and often did not brutally physically force the survivor. It could also be that participants felt as familiarity increased from stranger to relationship that the trust level increased and as such the survivor had more of an opportunity to stop the sexual assault. Evidence for this theory can be seen in the fact that participants were increasingly more likely to indicate the survivor "let it happen" as the relationship changed from stranger to acquaintance to relationship.

There is also a possibility that participants did not believe that offenders could be in a relationship and sexually assault others or their partner. One participant's written response to the cause of sexual assault indicated that offenders sexually assault because, "They cannot get a relationship and cannot afford a hooker." This explanation support the commonly held belief that sexual assault is motivated by sex and therefore, someone in a relationship should not need to assault people as they have access to sex. Considering that the criminal code only acknowledged that sexual assault could happen within a marriage and/or relationship in 1983, it would not be surprising if many still believed that sexual assault within a relationship is not very likely. A final possibility worth exploring would be the influence of type of force used during the sexual assault. In both acquaintance and relationship scenarios offenders are more likely to try coercing an individual before using violent force. From the global perceptions part of this study participants were least likely to identify situations involving coercion as non-consensual indicating they may view coercion differently than physical force. As the majority of sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances these findings are concerning in terms of individuals defining an experiences sexual assault and not blaming themselves for the assault. Further studies examining the reasons for the differences between relationship types is necessary along with further education and awareness on who offenders can be, what constitutes sexual assault, and that sexual assault can happen in relationships.

Form of Forced Sexual Activity

As sexual assault/rape has been traditionally defined as forced penetration, it was not surprising that participants were more likely to define scenarios as sexual assault or rape as the form of forced sexual activity increased in invasiveness from forced kissing/fondling to forced intercourse (Verberg *et al*, 2000). From the results it would appear that participants still view forced kissing/fondling largely as sexual harassment and forced intercourse as rape. The findings regarding forced oral sex were interesting in that the definition, though usually in the middle, often fluctuated more towards that of forced kissing/fondling or forced intercourse depending on relationship type. It would appear that participants are uncertain of the exact placement of forced oral sex in terms of sexual assault and are in need of further education. Further evidence of this can be seen in that fact that participants were also more likely to report being unsure of their definition of scenarios involving forced oral sex as compared to other similar scenarios.

Overall, these results suggest that participants weigh certain forced sexual acts differently than others, which could be problematic if they also view certain sexual acts to be more traumatizing on survivors. Studies have shown that survivors who are forced to perform oral sex experience the same trauma and recovery process as those whose assaults involved forced intercourse (Ullman, 1996; Jumper, 1995; Kahn and Andreoli, 2000). In light of this and these results, it may be important for educators to continue to work on expanding participants definitions of sexual assault and increase the use of examples involving forced kissing/fondling and oral sex. It is also important for crisis workers to be aware of these findings as they may be working with individuals who feel they should not be as bothered by their experience as they are.

Form of Non-consent

With regards to the form of non-consent, participants were more likely to define scenarios as sexual assault or rape when the form on non-consent was more direct (i.e. passed out, direct "no", prior consent). Scenarios involving "Change of mind" and "Implied 'no'" were the least likely to be defined as sexual assault or rape. As the criminal code outlines that both of these are valid forms of non-consent, more education and awareness about these two forms of non-consent is needed (Criminal Code of Canada, Sec.271, 2000). In addition, as there are many ways of implying "no" and different times that an individuals could change their mind before and during a sexual experience, further studies into these two forms of non-consent could be beneficial. From studies looking at common beliefs around alcohol and sexual assault, it was expected that fewer participates would define scenarios involving someone passed out as sexual assault (Abbey, 2002; Buddie and Miller, 2001; Wie and Gross, 2001). Although this was not found in this study, further research into the influence of alcohol in relation to consent is still needed as this study only looked at alcohol in the extreme case of being passed out.

Survivor Gender

Participants were more likely to define scenarios involving male survivors as sexual assault or rape as compared to similar scenarios involving female survivors. In addition, participants were also more likely to assign higher levels of responsibility when the survivor was female as compared to when the survivor was male. These results were contradictory to those found in other studies looking at perceptions around male-on-male sexual assault which found that participants were more likely to blame the male survivor for the assault and indicate that the male was not as traumatized by the assault (Smith, Pine and Hawley, 1988; Whatley and Riggio, 1992, 1993; McCaul *et al*, 1990; Mitchell *et al*, 1999). As the scenarios in this study only examined the influence of survivor gender in four very specific situations (acquaintance, forced intercourse, and forms of non-consent "Direct 'no'" and "Incapable") it is difficult to generalize these results to other relationship types, forms of forced sexual activity, or forms of non-consent without further research. That being said, as very little research has been completed on male survivors, these results, by way of contradiction, support the need for more in-depth research into perceptions around male survivors.

Though further research in this subject is needed, individuals written responses which were loaded with disgust that a male could commit such an act against another male and the suggestion that the offender was gay and or thought the survivor was gay suggest that the difference lay in the perceived consent. These comments, along with participants' adamant insistence that the survivor was "forced" and had done nothing to suggest he was interested in engaging in sexual activity again support the perceptions that sexual assault it motivated by sex and often is a result of miscommunication. From this stand point, and the high level of homophobia that still exists in our society, it is not surprising that more participants would define male-on-male scenarios as sexual assault more often then male-on-female scenarios nor that they would attribute more blame to female survivors (Mitchell *et al*, 1999).

Although these results suggest that males may have an easier time in terms of defining their experience and being blamed less for the assault and, therefore, receive more support, this may not necessarily be the case. In this study as in other studies looking at prevalence rates, males are perceived to less likely be victims of sexual assault (Koss *et al*, 1993; Mitchell *et al*, 1999; Verberg *et al*, 2000). In addition, as men are always perceived as wanting sex, male survivors face the issue of not being believed especially if their offender was female (Whatley and Riggio, 1993; Mitchell *et al*, 1999). These along with the limited services for male survivors and perceptions that male survivors are less affected by sexual assault and should be able to protect themselves from being sexually assaulted most likely make the recovery process more difficult for male survivors (Rogers, 1997). Further studies into male survivors may show that the issues for male survivors are different from female survivors (i.e. consent may not be as much of a concern as not being capable of stopping the assault).

Implications

The results from this study, as has been discussed throughout, offer many implications for sexual assault educators, crisis workers, and future research. Overall, though participants through their global perceptions appear to know a great deal about sexual assault they did not apply this information to situations, indicating that there is still a great need for education on this issue. That being said, these results also suggest that there may need to be a change in the focus of education programs. From the results it appears that knowledge of the definitions of sexual assault and consent are not enough for individuals to be able to define situations as sexual assault. As such the focus of education on sexual assault may need to shift to address the other factors that also seem to influence participants when determining whether a situation is sexual assault or not. Including more diverse examples (i.e. male survivors, female offenders, sexual assaults within relationships, other forms of forced sexual activity in addition to intercourse, coercion, and different forms of non-consent) of sexual assault throughout presentations may help individuals more accurately define situations as sexual assault.

Also, as a great deal of confusion appears to exist between the definitions of sexual assault and sexual harassment, it may be important for educators to explain the differences between these two forms of sexual violence. Given the prominent use of coercion as a tool by acquaintance and child abuse offenders and the results from this study, it may also be important for educators to define coercion and provide examples of how coercion may be used in sexual assaults. The results from this study also point to the need for sexual assault educators to continue to deconstruct misconceptions about sexual assault and survivor responsibility.

Finally, as can be seen through the results in this study, there is a tendency for individuals to blame the survivor for her/his behaviour and excuse or rationalize the offender's behaviour. When asked about the cause of sexual assault a great deal of responses focused on the offender being sexually frustrated, mentally unstable, abused as a child, drunk, unaware that the survivor was not consenting, wanting power, etc. Given that these were the reasons cited for why sexual assault happens, one would expect that ideas around prevention would focus on these things. Instead, the majority of participants' responses focused on what individuals could do to prevent sexual assault such as avoiding certain behaviours, learning self defence, being more cautious, commutating clearly, abstinence, fighting back, and so on. In the scenarios, though participants assigned higher levels of responsibility to offenders than to survivors, their written responses often suggested that the survivor was to blame for the assault and or that the offender did not intend to sexually assault the survivor. It is likely that individuals are not even aware of the messages that their perceptions about survivors, offenders, and sexual assault are sending. It is, however, unlikely that serious progress will be possible with respect to sexual assault until this process of thinking is stopped. Simply making individuals aware of how their perceptions shift the blame from offenders and place it on survivors may be enough. It may also be helpful for educators to ensure they are addressing misconceptions about offenders (i.e. they can be anyone, they can be in relationships, "he didn't mean to", etc.).

The results from this study may also be useful for individuals working with and supporting survivors. As survivors are just as likely to share the perceptions of the participants in this study, it is possible that they may have difficulty defining their experience as sexual assault and/or feel overly responsible for what happened. Knowing about these potential beliefs crisis workers can be sensitive to these beliefs and prepared to address them. Also, knowing that there may be a discrepancy between individuals' global and situational perceptions, crisis workers may be better prepared to address clients who appear to be confused about what they know they should think and feel with how they actually think and feel.

Finally, though this study has proved very enlightening in terms of identifying that individuals' global perceptions are incongruent with their situational perceptions and more factors than what are included in the legal definitions of sexual assault and consent are considered in defining a situation as sexual assault, it has also left many questions. Further research is needed to better understand the difference between individuals' global and situational perceptions of sexual assault. In addition, further research examining the simultaneous influence of several factors in sexual assault scenarios is also needed to better understand the role of each factor and also to determine whether these roles are changing.

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Appendix A

Questionnaire

In order to test all the desired scenarios and to control for ordering effects, six forms designated A through F were distributed to participants. All questionnaires were identical in format, number of questions and order in which questions were asked. The only difference between the forms was the scenarios and the order of scenarios given for participants to consider as outlined in Table 36 below. As the base of the questionnaire did not change across forms only Questionnaire Form A is provided.

Table 36: Breakdown of scenarios distributed to participants based on form

Scenario Order	Form	Relationship Type	Form of Non-consent	Type of Forced Sexual Activity
1	A/D	Stranger	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling
1	B/F	Stranger	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral Sex
1	C/E	Stranger	Verbal/Implied " no"	Sexual intercourse
2	B/E	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied " no"	Kissing/fondling
2	C/D	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex
2	A/F	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
3	C/F	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling
3	A/E	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex
3	B/D	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
4	A	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
4	B/D	Acquaintance	Change of mind	Sexual intercourse
4	C/E	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
4	F	Relationship	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	F	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	A/E	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse
5	B/D	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
5	C	Relationship	Prior Consent	Sexual intercourse
6	B/F	Relationship	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse
6	A/E	Relationship	Change mind	Sexual intercourse
6	D	Relationship	Prior Consent	Sexual intercourse
6	C	Relationship	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse

QUESTIONNAIRE – Form A

Part 1: These questions are to allow us to know the kind of people filling out the questionnaire

PLEASE CHECK ONE RESPONSE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is your gender?

— Male — Female

2. What is your current age?

— Under 20 — 20-21 — 22-23 — 24-25 — 25 or Over

3. What is your country of birth?

— Canada
— USA
— Eastern Europe
— Western Europe
— Asia
— Africa
— Other ____________________

4. In what type of area have you spent the majority of your life living?

— Rural (Less than 1000)
— Town (1000 – 10,000)
— Town (10,000 – 60,000)
— City (60,000 – 120,000)
— City (120,000 – 500,000)
— City (500,000 or Greater)

5. What is your religious affiliation?

— Catholic
— Protestant
— Jewish
— Muslim
— Hindu
— None
— Other ____________________

6. What is your parents' total annual income after taxes?

— Less than $20, 000
— $20,000 – $39,999
— $40,000 - $59,999
— $60,000 – $79,999
— $80,000 - $119,999
— $120,000 - $199,999
— $200,000 or more

7. What is your current total annual income after taxes?

— Less than $20, 000
— $20,000 – $39,999
— $40,000 - $59,999
— $60,000 – $79,999
— $80,000 - $119,999
— $120,000 - $199,999
— $200,000 or more

8. In what program are you currently registered?

— Arts
— Science
— Education
— Engineering
— Nursing
— Dentistry/Pharmacy
— Graduate studies/Medicine/Law
— Other _______________

9. What is your current year at university?

— First — Second — Third — Fourth — Fifth — Sixth or More

Part 2: Questions in this section are to help understand how people perceive various situations.

There are six scenarios in this section. After each scenario there are a few questions asking you about what you think is taking place in the scenario. Please select the best response. Please remember that you may stop filling out this questionnaire at any time or may leave questions blank that you do not wish to answer.

Scenario 1

Karen, at a party with a bunch of her friends, was standing by the wall, taking a break from dancing. As she stood there, she noticed a guy standing across the room looking at her. When their eyes met, he smiled and she smiled back as she watched him start to make his way across the room. All of a sudden, a guy stepped in front of her and pressed her back against the wall as he kissed her and put his right hand up her skirt and started fondling her. When Karen tried to protest, the guy grabbed one of her arms and held it firmly while he continued to fondle her for a few more seconds. Then just as fast as he had arrived, he was gone.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

— Normal Sexual Activity
— Miscommunication
— Sexual Harassment
— Sexual Assault
— Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure   Sure   Somewhat Sure   Unsure   Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Karen for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

4. How responsible was the "guy" for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

Scenario 2

Stacey and her friends were out at a local bar on Saturday night when a guy named Paul asked Stacey to dance with him. Stacey and Paul really hit it off and spent the rest of the night dancing and talking. At the end of the night as the bar was closing, Paul asked Stacey if he could take her home. When Paul dropped Stacey off at her house, she asked him if he wanted to come in for a while. After some talking, Stacey and Paul started kissing on the couch. As things progressed Paul removed Stacey's shirt, and Stacey, after unbuttoning Paul's shirt, unbuttoned his pants and preformed oral sex. After, Stacey sat up and told Paul that she'd had a real nice time but thought she should call it a night. As she moved to get off the couch Paul laughed, and asked if she was serious. Stacey said she didn't have sex with people she just met, told him she'd had fun, thanked him for the ride home and hoped he'd call. Paul smiled and asked Stacey if he could have one more kiss goodnight. As Paul kissed Stacey, he leaned her back on the couch and had sex with her while Stacey laid there.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

— Normal Sexual Activity
— Miscommunication
— Sexual Harassment
— Sexual Assault
— Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure   Sure   Somewhat Sure   Unsure   Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Stacey for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

4. How responsible was Paul for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

Scenario 3

Steve and Amanda, who had been together for a while, had just gotten back to Amanda's place after a night out with their friends. As Amanda sat down next to Steve on the couch, Steve asked if she was tired. Amanda shook her head no and started kissing Steve. After a while, Steve put his hand on Amanda's head and started to lead it down towards his lap. Amanda was not very comfortable with oral sex and told Steve that she did not want to have oral sex right now. Steve told her that her really cared for her and thought it was time to move their relationship to a new level. Amanda really liked Steve but she wasn't ready to have sex or oral sex with him yet and told him this. Steve asked, "Don't you care about me? Wont you just try it? Please?" Amanda told him she was sorry and Steve said that was fine and got up to leave. Amanda didn't want Steve to be angry so she stood up, put her arms around him, and asked him not to go yet. Steve said he really didn't see any point in staying and started to leave. Amanda then started kissing Steve and after a few minutes, Steve started to kiss Amanda again. As the two sat back on the couch, Steve pushed Amanda's head down into his lap.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

— Normal Sexual Activity
— Miscommunication
— Sexual Harassment
— Sexual Assault
— Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure Sure Somewhat Sure Unsure Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Amanda for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

4. How responsible was Steve for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

Scenario 4

Tanya was at an end-of-semester party at her friend John's house. During the evening, Tanya met Tyler a friend of John's older brother. The two started talking and soon found out that they were both in the same program. As the party started to pick up and the noise level increased, Tyler suggested they go upstairs where it was quieter so they could talk more. Tanya and Tyler found a room upstairs with bookshelves covered in books, board games and other stuff, a sewing machine, a small TV and a couch. The two sat down and continued to talk about their programs, research interests, life plans, and stuff. Tyler told Tanya that he was really glad he had ran into her at the party and asked if it would be okay if he called her sometime. Tanya said yes and then Tyler kissed her. After kissing and making out for a while, Tyler started to unbutton Tanya's pants. Tanya pulled back and told him she really didn't think this was a good idea and that they should probably be getting back to the party. Tyler told her not to worry, she'd be fine, no one would know as he laid her back on the couch and had sex with her.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

   — Normal Sexual Activity
   — Miscommunication
   — Sexual Harassment
   — Sexual Assault
   — Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure　　Sure　　Somewhat Sure　　Unsure　　Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Tanya for what happened?

   — Not responsible
   — A little responsible
   — Somewhat responsible
   — Mostly responsible
   — Entirely responsible

   Why?

4. How responsible was Tyler for what happened?

   — Not responsible
   — A little responsible
   — Somewhat responsible
   — Mostly responsible
   — Entirely responsible

   Why?

Scenario 5

Rick asked Jeff, a teammate, if he wanted to come to a party with him. The two decided to take one car and went to the party. When the two got back to their apartment after the party Rick asked Jeff if he wanted to come up to his place, get some pizza, and watch a movie. As Rick set a few bottle of beers down on the coffee table, Jeff came up behind Rick and pushed him down on the couch. When Rick asked Jeff what he thought he was doing, Jeff held Rick down and started to pull off Rick's pants. Rick told Jeff he thought he had the wrong idea, and tried to get up but Jeff pushed him into the couch and had anal sex with him.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

— Normal Sexual Activity
— Miscommunication
— Sexual Harassment
— Sexual Assault
— Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure Sure Somewhat Sure Unsure Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Rick for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

4. How responsible was Jeff for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

Scenario 6

Mat and Jen met at a mutual friends birthday party and have been together every since. Though they had spent a lot of time together and had talked about having sex, Mat and Jen had decided to wait until they both felt the time was right. After much talking, they both decided that they were ready and planned a special night. After a nice candle lit dinner, Mat and Jen went back to Jen's place where they turned on some music, lit a few candles, and slow danced in the bedroom. After a while, Mat and Jen started kissing and undressing each other. As things progressed, Mat gently laid Jen down on the bed. Just before intercourse occurred Jen stopped and told Mat that she was sorry but she wasn't ready. Mat said, "Don't worry, everything will be fine, we're ready. I love you so much. Don't you love me?" Jen said, "Of course I love you." Mat smiled, kissed Jen, and told her, "It's ok, it's our time, just relax, and let yourself go" as he proceeded to have intercourse with her as Jen just lay there.

1. In general, what would you consider the above situation to be a case of? (Check only one)

— Normal Sexual Activity
— Miscommunication
— Sexual Harassment
— Sexual Assault
— Rape

2. How sure are you with your selected response?

Very Sure Sure Somewhat Sure Unsure Very Unsure

3. How responsible was Jen for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

4. How responsible was Mat for what happened?

— Not responsible
— A little responsible
— Somewhat responsible
— Mostly responsible
— Entirely responsible

Why?

If you have any comments about this section or one of the scenarios please feel free to write them on the back of this sheet.

Part 3: These questions are to understand people's thoughts on sexual assault

Please select the best answer(s) for each question and answer as honestly and fully as you can.

1. In general, why do you think a person (offender) sexually assaults someone?

2. In general, what do you think can be done to prevent/stop sexual assault from happening?

3. In general, how serious an offense do you think sexual assault is?

   Not Very Serious   Somewhat Serious   Serious   Very Serious   Extremely Serious

   Why?

4. What percentage of women do you think will be sexually assaulted at some time in their life? ____%

   What percentage of these women do you think will be sexually assaulted after the age of 18? ____%

5. What percentage of men do you think will be sexually assaulted at some time in their life? ____%

   What percentage of these men do you think will be sexually assaulted after the age of 18? ____%

6. What percentage of sexual assaults do you think are committed by someone the victim knows? ____%

7. Sexual assault is often seen as an unwanted, forced experience. Which of the following **unwanted, forced experiences (acts)** would you consider to be **sexual assault?**

Please Check All That Apply

— Kissing
— Sexual jokes
— Exposure to another's genitals
— Fondling/Petting
— Sexual comments or rumors
— Sexual intercourse
— Exposure to pornography or other sexually disturbing pictures or videos
— Oral sex
— Grabbing, pinching or patting of certain body parts (ie. breasts, genitals, butt, etc)
— Anal sex
— Sexual propositions (Constantly being asked if you want to have sex)

8. Consent is a voluntary agreement to do something. In sexual assault, consent is not given. In which of the following situations do you believe **consent has been given** for sexual activity?

Please Check All That Apply

— Both parties have been drinking and decide to engage in sexual activity
— An individual is passed out from drinking at a party
— A person doesn't say "no", but implies no through behaviors such as moving away, not responding, crying, resisting
— A husband tells his best friend that he can have sex with his wife
— An individual consented to having sexual activity but changed their mind before it happened
— A professor has sex with one of his/her students
— Sam kisses Kim and Kim kisses Sam back
— A person doesn't say "no", but implies no through words such as, "I'm tired, I have to study, Let's watch a movie."
— An individual is sleeping
— A person says "no"
— After much pleading and begging over several hours, Sam had sex with Kim
— A guy threatens to tell all his friends that his girlfriend doesn't satisfy him if she doesn't perform oral sex on him, so she does

9. Have you ever had an unwanted sexual experience? ___YES ___NO

If yes, would you define this experience as sexual assault? ___YES ___NO

10. Do you know someone who has been sexually assaulted? ___YES ___NO

If yes, how close were you to that person?

Very close Close Somewhat Close Not Very Close

11. Have you ever forced someone beyond her/his sexual limits? ___YES ___NO

If yes, would you define this experience as sexual assault? ___YES ___NO

12. Have you ever seen a presentation or received training on sexual assault? ___YES ___NO

If Yes,

When? ______________________

How many presentations have you seen on sexual assault? __________

Were they presented by the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre? ___YES ___NO

Thank you for your participation!

If you have any further comments please feel free to write them in the space below or on the back.

Appendix B

The scenarios used in this study, as created by the researcher, are listed below along with Table 37, which outlines the variables tested in each of the eighteen scenarios.

Table 37: Scenarios and Their Corresponding Variables as Used in the Study

#	Type of Relationship	Form of Consent	Level of Sexual Activity	Gender of Survivor
1	Stranger	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling	Female
2	Stranger	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral Sex	Female
3	Stranger	Verbal/Implied " no"	Sexual intercourse	Female
4	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied " no"	Kissing/fondling	Female
5	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex	Female
6	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse	Female
7	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Kissing/fondling	Female
8	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Oral sex	Female
9	Relationship	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse	Female
10	Acquaintance	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse	Female
11	Acquaintance	Verbal/Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse	Male
12	Acquaintance	Change of mind	Sexual intercourse	Female
13	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse	Female
14	Acquaintance	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse	Male
15	Relationship	Alcohol	Sexual intercourse	Female
16	Relationship	Change mind	Sexual intercourse	Female
17	Relationship	Prior consensual sexual activity	Sexual intercourse	Female
18	Relationship	Implied "no"	Sexual intercourse	Female

1) Scenario
Karen, at a party with a bunch of her friends, was standing by the wall, taking a break from dancing. As she stood there, she noticed a guy standing across the room looking at her. When their eyes met, he smiled and she smiled back as she watched him start to make his way across the room. All of a sudden, a guy stepped in front of her and pressed her back against the wall as he kissed her and put his right hand up her skirt and started fondling her. When Karen tried to protest, the guy grabbed one of her arms and held it firmly while he continued to fondle her for a few more seconds. Then just as fast as he had arrived, he was gone.

2) Scenario
Katrina was taking an English 101 night class in her second semester at the UofA. One night while walking to her car after class, she noticed another guy she had not seen before who also seemed to be walking to his car. Katrina thought nothing of this and continued into the parking lot where her car was parked. As she reached to unlock her door, she was grabbed from behind and pushed down beside her car. The man, whom Katrina did not know but saw a few minutes ago, told her to be very quite and she wouldn't get hurt. As the man unzipped his pants Katrina cried "no" and begged him not to do this as the man forced her to perform oral sex on him.

3) Scenario
Katrina was taking an English 101 night class in her second semester at the UofA. One night while walking to her car after class, she noticed another guy she had not seen before who also seemed to be walking to his car. Katrina thought nothing of this and continued into the parking lot where her car was parked. As she reached to unlock her door, she was grabbed from behind and pulled down beside her car. The man, whom Katrina did not know but saw a few minutes ago, pushed her to the ground and pinned her arms down with one hand while he ripped off her

clothes with the other hand. Katrina cried "No," but the man overpowered her and had sexual intercourse with her.

4) Scenario
Mike asked Amy, a classmate, to a party. Towards the end of the party, she asked Mike if they could leave because she had a lot to do the next morning. Back at Amy' s dorm room, Mike closed the door and started kissing her. After a few minutes, Mike started to unbutton Amy's blouse. Amy protested, saying, "No, not on the first date!" Mike said, "okay", but wanted to know if he could stay for a while, listen to some music and talk. Amy knew she needed to get some rest, but she also liked Mike and didn't want him not to ask her out again, so she turned on some music and sat on the bed next to Mike. After talking for a while Mike again kissed Amy. After a few minutes, Mike started to put his hand up Amy's shirt. Amy pulled back and told him she was really tired and he should probably get going. As Amy started to get up, Mike pushed her back on the bed and kissed her as he placed a hand up her shirt and unbuttoned her pants. As he shifted to undo his pants, Amy rolled off the bed and buttoned her pants as she was opened the door while telling Mike he really should be going because she needed to get some rest. Mike got up, told Amy he'd call her and left.

5) Scenario
Tanya was at an end-of-semester party at her friend John's house. During the evening, Tanya met Tyler a friend of John's older brother. The two started talking and soon found out they were both in the same program. As the party started to pick up and the noise level increased, Tyler suggested they go upstairs where it was quieter so they could talk more. Tanya and Tyler found a room upstairs with bookshelves covered in books, board games and other stuff, a sewing machine, a small TV and a couch. The two sat down and continued to talk about their programs, research interests, life plans, and what not. Tyler told Tanya that he was really glad he had ran into her at the party and asked if it would be okay if he called her sometime. Tanya said sure and then Tyler kissed her. After kissing and making out for a while, Tyler started to lead Tanya's head down into his lap. Tanya pulled back and told him she really didn't think this was a good idea. Tyler told her not to worry as she'd be fine and that he wouldn't tell anyone as he held her head in his lap until he was done.

6) Scenario
Stacey and her friends were out at a local bar on Saturday night when a guy named Paul asked Stacey to dance with him. Stacey and Paul really hit it off and spent the rest of the night dancing and talking. At the end of the night as the bar was closing, Paul asked Stacey if he could take her home. When Paul dropped Stacey off at her house, she asked him if he wanted to come in for a while. After some talking, Stacey and Paul started kissing on the couch. As things progressed Paul removed Stacey's shirt, and Stacey, after unbuttoning Paul's shirt, unbuttoned his pants and preformed oral sex. After, Stacey sat up and told Paul that she'd had a real nice time but thought she should call it a night. As she moved to get off the couch Paul laughed, and asked if she was serious. Stacey said she didn't have sex with people she just met, told him she'd had fun, thanked him for the ride home and hoped he'd call. Paul smiled and asked Stacey if he could have one more kiss goodnight. As Paul kissed Stacey, he leaned her back on the couch and had sex with her while Stacey lay there.

7) Scenario
Steve and Amanda, who had been together for a while, had just gotten back to Amanda's place after a night out with their friends. As Amanda sat down next to Steve on the couch, Steve asked if she was tired. Amanda shook her head no, but told Steve she didn't want to do anything other than talk when he smiled at her and started to lean towards her. Steve said ok and turned on the TV as Amanda cuddled in next to him. After a while, Steve kissed Amanda on the neck and as he moved to kiss her on the mouth, Amanda moved away from him. Steve asked, "Don't you care about me? Don't you want to be with me? It doesn't have to go far." Amanda told him she was sorry, but just didn't feel like doing anything tonight. Steve said that was fine and got up to leave. Amanda didn't want Steve to be angry so she stood up, put her arms around him, and

asked him not to go yet. Steve said he really didn't see any point in staying and started to leave. Amanda then started kissing Steve and after a few minutes, Steve started to kiss Amanda again. As the two sat back on the couch, Steve pushed Amanda back on the couch and made out with her.

8) Scenario
Steve and Amanda, who had been together for a while, had just gotten back to Amanda's place after a night out with their friends. As Amanda sat down next to Steve on the couch, Steve asked if she was tired. Amanda shook her head no and started kissing Steve. After a while, Steve put his hand on Amanda's head and started to lead it down towards his lap. Amanda was not very comfortable with oral sex and told Steve that she did not want to have oral sex right now. Steve told her that her really cared for her and thought it was time to move their relationship to a new level. Amanda really liked Steve but she wasn't ready to have sex or oral sex with him yet and told him this. Steve asked, "Don't you care about me? Wont you just try it? Please?" Amanda told him she was sorry and Steve said that was fine and got up to leave. Amanda didn't want Steve to be angry so she stood up, put her arms around him, and asked him not to go yet. Steve said he really didn't see any point in staying and started to leave. Amanda then started kissing Steve and after a few minutes, Steve started to kiss Amanda again. As the two sat back on the couch, Steve pushed Amanda's head down into his lap.

9) Scenario
Mat and Jen met at a mutual friends birthday party and have been together every since. Though they had spent a lot of time together and had talked about having sex, Mat and Jen had decided to wait until they both felt the time was right. After a nice candle lit dinner, Mat and Jen went back to Jen's place, where they turned on some music and cuddled on the couch. After making out for a bit, Mat and Jen started undressing each other. As things progressed, Mat gently laid Jen back on the couch. Just as Mat started to take Jen's underwear off, Jen put her hand on his and told him that she was really sorry but she just wasn't ready yet. Mat said, "Don't worry, everything will be fine, we're ready. I love you so much. Don't you love me?" Jen said, "Of course I love you." Mat smiled, kissed Jen, and told her, "It's ok, it's our time, just relax, and let yourself go" as he proceeded to have intercourse with her while she just lay there.

10) Scenario
Tanya was at an end-of-semester party at her friend John's house. During the evening, Tanya met Tyler a friend of John's older brother. The two started talking and soon found out they were both in the same program. As the party started to pick up and the noise level increased, Tyler suggested they go upstairs where it was quieter so they could talk more. Tanya and Tyler found a room upstairs with bookshelves covered in books, board games and other stuff, a sewing machine, a small TV and a couch. The two sat down and continued to talk about their programs, research interests, life plans, and stuff. Tyler told Tanya that he was really glad he had ran into her at the party and asked if it would be okay if he called her sometime. Tanya said yes and then Tyler kissed her. After kissing and making out for a while, Tyler started to unbutton Tanya's pants. Tanya pulled back and told him she really didn't think this was a good idea and that they should really get back to the party. Tyler told her not to worry, she'd be fine, no one would know as he laid her back on the couch and had sex with her.

11) Scenario
Rick asked Jeff, a teammate, if he wanted to come to a party with him. The two decided to take one car and went to the party. When the two got back to their apartment after the party Rick asked Jeff if he wanted to come up to his place, get some pizza, and watch a movie. As Rick set a few bottle of beers down on the coffee table, Jeff came up behind Rick and pushed him down on the couch. When Rick asked Jeff what he thought he was doing, Jeff held Rick down and started to pull off Rick's pants. Rick told Jeff he thought he had the wrong idea, and tried to get up but Jeff pushed him into the couch and had anal sex with him.

12) Scenario

Stacey and her friends were out at a local bar on Saturday night when a guy named Paul asked Stacey to dance with him. Stacey and Paul really hit it off and spent the rest of the night dancing and talking. At the end of the night as the bar was closing, Paul asked Stacey if he could take her home. When Paul dropped Stacey off at her house, she asked him if he wanted to come in for a while. After some talking, Stacey and Paul started kissing on the couch. As things progressed Paul removed Stacey's shirt and Stacey after unbuttoning Paul's shirt, unbuttoned his pants and preformed oral sex on him. After, Paul laid Stacey back on the couch and started to finish undressing her. As he started to remove Stacey's pants she put her hand on his and told him that she was really sorry, she'd thought this was what she wanted, but now realized she just wasn't ready. Paul told her to just relax, things would fine, she was just nervous and had sex with her.

13) Scenario

Jill and a few of her friends went to an end-of-semester party at her friend John's. During the evening, a group of guys started talking to Jill and her friends. One of the guys gave Jill a beer and asked her to dance. As the party started to unwind, some of Jill's friends decided to head home and wanted to know if she wanted to come with them. Jill said she wasn't ready to go home yet and would probably just stay at John's for the night. After Jill's friends and most of the other people left, a bunch of people ended up sitting around a table in the kitchen playing drinking games. Jill didn't remember leaving the table or passing out but she must have because the next thing she remembered was waking up and seeing the guy she had met earlier that night on top of her having sex with her. She heard him say, "Don't worry I've got protection," just before she passed out again.

14) Scenario

Bill and a bunch of his buddies and their friends decided to spend a night out on the town. They all met at his friend Peter's house for a few drinks and then headed out. One of Peter's friends, Joel, was visiting him for the weekend and decided to join the guys for their night on the town. The guys spent most of the night just hopping from one bar to the next whenever they were bored or decided they needed a change. After a long and fun-filled night, some of the guys went back to Peter's house for beer and pizza. Bill decided he was too drunk to drive home so Peter told him he could just bunk at his place for the night. After playing a bunch of drinking games, Bill just barely remembered making it to the couch were he passed out. The next thing Bill remembered was waking up and feeling someone on top of him. As Bill turned his head, he saw Joel was the one on top of him. He heard Joel say, "Don't worry I've got protection," just before he passed out again.

15) Scenario

Mat and Jen met at a mutual friends birthday party and have been together every since. Though they had spent a lot of time together and had talked about having sex, Mat and Jen had decided to wait until they both felt the time was right. After getting back to Jen's apartment after celebrating the end of the semester with a bunch of friends, Jen told Mat he might as well just spend the night. After a few minutes of kissing, Jen told Mat she needed to go to bed and get some rest so she would not be too hung over the next morning. After the two were in bed, Mat kissed Jen and started to undress her. Jen put her hand against his chest and told him that she was didn't think this was a good idea, she wanted to wait and needed to get some sleep. Mat sighed, said okay and Jen rolled over and passed out. The next think Jen remembered was waking up and seeing Mat on top of her having sex with her. She heard him say, "Don't worry I'm using protection," just before she passed out again.

16) Scenario

Mat and Jen met at a mutual friends birthday party and have been together every since. Though they had spent a lot of time together and had talked about having sex, Mat and Jen had decided to wait until they both felt the time was right. After much talking, they both decided that they were ready and planned a special night. After a nice candle lit dinner, Mat and Jen went back to Jen's place where they turned on some music, lit a few candles, and slow danced in the bedroom. After a while, Mat and Jen started kissing and undressing each other. As things progressed, Mat gently laid Jen down on the bed. Just before intercourse occurred Jen stopped and told Mat that she was sorry but she wasn't ready. Mat said, "Don't worry, everything will be fine, we're ready. I love you so much. Don't you love me?" Jen said, "Of course I love you." Mat smiled, kissed Jen, and told her, "It's ok, it's our time, just relax, and let yourself go" as he proceeded to have intercourse with her while she just lay there.

17) Scenario
Shannon and Kyle, who have been together for a while, decided to go back to Shannon's apartment to watch a movie they'd rented after having dinner with a bunch of friends. During the movie, Shannon leaned against Kyle and placed her hand on his thigh. Kyle and Shannon started kissing and pretty soon had forgotten all about the movie. As Kyle started to unbutton Shannon's pants, Shannon pulled back and told him, "Not tonight, I don't feel like having sex tonight, I just want to cuddle." Kyle smiled and kissed Shannon. He told her that he loved her a great deal and was so lucky to have her. As the two continued kissing, Kyle unbuttoned and removed Shannon's shirt as she removed his. Kyle told Shannon how beautiful she was as he continued to kiss her and touch her. As things progressed, Kyle again tried to unbutton Shannon's pants. Shannon put her hand over Kyle's and said, "Kyle I really don – " when Kyle covered her mouth with his and pushed her back on the couch and had sex with her.

18) Scenario
Mike and Amy had been together for a while when Mike asked Amy to a friends party. Towards the end of the party, Amy asked Mike if they could leave because she had a big exam coming up that she needed to study for the next day. Back at Amy' s dorm room, Mike closed the door and started kissing Amy. After a few minutes, Mike had led Amy to the bed and laid her down on it. Amy told Mike that she really needed to get some rest and that maybe this should wait for another night. Mike told Amy she was right and that he would leave in a few minutes, he just wanted to be with her for a few more minutes. As Mike and Amy continued to kiss, Mike started to unbutton Amy's blouse. Amy put her hand over his and told him that he really needed to get going because she really needed her sleep. He just smiled at her and kissed her as he moved her hand out of the way and finished unbuttoning her shirt. "Just a few more minutes and I'll go," he said as he continued to kiss and touch her. Amy started to say, "Mike I – ," but Mike covered her mouth with his and proceeded to have sex with her.

Appendix C

Recruitment Letter

March 8, 2003

Dear Professor,

A study conducted at the University of Alberta on unwanted sexual experiences as reported by students, found that **21% of the respondents reported having experienced at least one unwanted sexual experience at some point in their life** (LoVerso 2001). This study also indicated that the effects of sexual assault on survivors were numerous, long-term as well as short-term, impacting physical, psychological and social well-being including academic performance. In order to develop better sexual assault prevention programs and reduce the negative effects that sexual assault has on survivors, partners, friends, families, and society we need to understand exactly how individuals view sexual assault and go about defining situations as sexual assault.

A questionnaire has been formed as part of a Masters thesis study being conducted by Melodie Sanford in the department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Alberta. The study entitled: **"How do perceptions, exposure and personal background influence an individual's ability in defining sexual experiences?"** has been approved by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Health Research Ethics Board. Our goal is to get a sample of 600 students that is representative of undergraduate students at the University of Alberta, because often studies like this are limited to a very specific group. The survey consists of a questionnaire that takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, and will include a thorough debriefing information sheet with resources for those students who may be affected by completing the questionnaire.

We are asking professors who have 30 minutes, a class block to donate, or who must cancel a class due to illness or absence, contact us and allow us to conduct the survey during that time. The survey team could administer the survey in the class allocated to completing class evaluation forms. **Alternatively, as a last option**, we would ask that you consider allowing us 10 minutes of your class time to distribute the questionnaire, for students to complete on their own time, **before the end of the semester.**

I encourage your participation in this survey; your cooperation and partnership will be greatly appreciated. **The results from this study will be directly applicable in helping the University of Alberta continue to address the issue of sexual assault on campus.** We would ideally like to have all the questionnaires **completed by the end of this term**, so please consider this when selecting a class date. **To set up a class time to run the questionnaire, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melodie Sanford by email msanford@ualberta.ca or phone 492-9856.**

I would like to thank you for you your time and consideration, particularly at such a busy time of year.

Sincerely,

Melodie Sanford, BSc
Masters Student, Public Health Sciences

Committee Members

Dr. Gus Thompson Associate Professor	Dr. Lory Laing Professor and Director	Dr. Robin Everall Associate Professor

Briefing

- Hello everyone, I am (researcher's **name**) and I am here to ask you to participate in a **study on people's perceptions and views about sexual experiences and sexual assault**.

- I want to emphasize that your participation is very appreciated, but you should keep in mind that it is **voluntary**. You can discontinue your participation at any time, and you can chose to skip questions that you do not want to answer. **Yet**, please keep in mind that for accurate findings it is important that you answer all the questions as completely and honestly as you can.

- We will assume that **by filling out** this questionnaire you **are consenting to participate**. If you chose not to participate, please remain quietly seated for at least 15 minutes after everyone starts filling out the questionnaire.

- Also, keep in mind that this survey is **completely anonymous**, and therefore the information that you provide cannot be traced back to you.

- The questionnaire is divided into three sections and should take between 20 – 30 minutes to fill out. There are **3 forms of the questionnaire**, all are the same except for the 2nd section in which you will be given 6 of 18 scenarios, which will be randomly distributed among the class. No one, including the survey administrators will know which questionnaire you received nor how you answer the questions.

- The first part of the questionnaire asks general information about you as a participant so that we can identify what sector of the population we have in our study. This information will not be used for anything else, so please answer honestly. The second part consists of various scenarios depicting sexual situations which many people have varying opinions on. We are interested in trying to better understand what is going on in these situations and would ask you to tell us what you think and a few words on why you think that way. These are opinion-based questions, so there are no wrong or right answers. The final part of the questionnaire asks a bunch of questions on your general perception of sexual assault.

- Please **read all the instructions** in the booklet carefully; if you have any questions, please ask one of us.

- Please keep you eyes on your paper only, and feel free to use the blank sheet of paper provided to cover your questionnaire.

- When you have finished, please bring the questionnaire and answer sheet to the front of the room and give them to the researcher. **Thank you** very much for participating, by doing so you are making a valuable contribution to research at the University of Alberta, and it is very appreciated.

Debriefing of Questionnaire

The questionnaire that you have just completed asked about perceptions around sexual assault and sexual experiences, which may raise many questions, feelings and issues for many people. Considering that FBI annual statistics have found that 1/4 women and 1/8 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime (Rennison, 1999), a very large portion of our community has been affected by sexual assault. This sheet is to provide you with some information about this topic and resources for where you can go to talk to someone about it if you are interested in doing so.

The main interest in this study was to gain a better understanding in how people view and define various sexual experiences. It is believed that many people, even though they are aware of the definition of sexual assault, often do not identify situations that meat the legal definition of sexual assault as such. For this reason scenarios were developed which looked at various forms of sexual activity, different types of relationships, and forms of non-consent. Because of limited resources and the fact the majority of sexual assaults that happen to both men and women are committed by men, the scenarios developed all consisted of male offenders. This is in no way meant to suggest that women are not offenders of sexual assault or to dismiss the fact that women have sexually assaulted males and females.

Definitions

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a legal term in Canada to refer to any form of sexual contact without voluntary consent. Sexual contact ranges anywhere from kissing and fondling to oral, anal and vaginal sex.

Consent

In the Criminal Code of Canada, "Consent is defined as a voluntary agreement of the complainant to engage in the sexual activity in question." (Section 273.1)
The Code also outlines when consent is NOT given, that is if:

- it is given by someone else
- the person is unconscious, drunk, stoned, or sleeping
- it is an abuse of power, trust, or authority
- the person does not say yes, says no, or through words or behaviour implies no
- the person changes her/his mind

Resources

If completing this survey brought up some feelings for you that you would like to discuss, or if you have any questions or comments about the survey, please contact the researcher (Melodie Sanford) or any of the following organizations.

Melodie Sanford
430-7686
msanford@ualberta.ca

University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre
2-602 Students' Union Building
492-9771
http://www.ualberta.ca/~uasac
The U of A Sexual Assault Centre provides a safe place on campus where unconditional support, confidentiality, respect, and advocacy are available for those affected by sexual assault and/or

stalking. The Centre works with both female and male survivors of sexual assault and stalking, as well as supporters of survivors. Others use the Centre's many literary resources if they are researching for a paper or presentation on sexual assault or a related topic.

For long-term support, the Centre offers referrals to other agencies.

Fall and Winter Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton
***423-4121* (24 hours Crisis Line)**
Suite #205 14964 121A Avenue
www.sace.ab.ca
Operates a 24-hour crisis line that offers crisis intervention to survivors and their families of past and current sexual assault and abuse.

SafeTalk (Sexual Assault Centre)
(in Sherwood Park)
449-0900
1008 Village Drive (in Sherwood Park)
Offers crisis intervention and counselling to survivors and their families of past and current sexual assault and abuse.

Student Counselling Services
492-5205
www.ualberta.ca/~uscs
Provides personal, or group counselling, workshops and training sessions

The Distress Line
***482-HELP (4357)* (24 hours)**
Provides a confidential, anonymous 24-hour telephone line and referrals for people in crisis or problem situations.

University Health Services psychiatrists
2-200 Students Union Building
492-2612
(Operate on a walk-in basis)

Winter hours (Sept - April)
8 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Faculty of Education Clinical Services
1-135 Education North Building
492-3746
Offers short and long term counselling to individuals for a minimum fee.

Appendix D

Global Perceptions

Selected Written Responses for Seriousness of Sexual Assault

- "It goes against a person's beliefs and invades their personal security."
- "It is violating someone in an extremely personal way."
- "It is a violation of someone both physically and emotionally. It can never be undone."
- "It lasts a life time."
- "Rights violated, injury, unplanned pregnancies, loss of one's own identity."
- "Defiling a person, making them do something they don't want to do. You are taking a very private piece of them."
- "Sex is an intimate, private thing that should never be forced on someone."
- "It's a crime."
- "You are intruding on another person's private property."
- "Physical and emotional repercussions."

Selected Written Responses for the Cause of Sexual Assault

- "They feel they must have dominance over people and are probably emotionally lacking and therefore, feel the only way the can achieve this is by force."
- "To assert control and power."
- "Sex drive and poor decision making skills."
- "Sometimes the offender thinks the survivor is okay with what's going on"
- "The offender was abused during his childhood"
- "Often misreading the signs, sometimes power."
- "They are selfish, want physical satisfaction regardless of other person's feelings."
- "Sexually frustrated – can't get anyone else."
- "Can't control themselves."
- "For power, may also feel pressure to "do" someone."

Selected Written Responses for Sexual Assault Prevention

- "Be vocal and be aware and cautious in threatening situations."
- "Remain in control of the situation or if you can't remove yourself from the situation entirely."
- "Don't put yourself in vulnerable situations."
- "Greater awareness and education on what sexual assault is and what to do after it happens."
- "Awareness and skills to protect"
- "Make sexual assault a capital punishable crime."
- "Telling people to communicate their feelings better."
- "Teach women to be assertive and to avoid situations."
- "More education on what is right and wrong"
- "Don't lead the person on. If you are uncomfortable get out of the situation."

Appendix E

Situational Perceptions

Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Forced Sexual Activity

Table 38: Q2 - Participants' responses to "How sure are you about your selected response?"

Scenario			**"How sure are you about your selected response?"**				
			Very Sure (1)	**Sure (2)**	**Somewhat Sure (3)**	**Unsure (4)**	**Very Unsure (5)**
Relationship Type	**Sexual Activity**	**Mean ± SD**	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***
Stranger	Kissing/ Fondling	1.82 ± 0.79	39*(71)*	42*(75)*	17*(31)*	1*(2)*	1*(1)*
Acquaintance	Kissing/ Fondling	2.19 ± 0.81	19*(36)*	48*(90)*	28*(52)*	4*(8)*	1*(1)*
Relationship	Kissing/ Fondling	2.26 ± 0.90	20*(37)*	44*(81)*	27*(49)*	9*(16)*	1*(1)*
Stranger	Oral Sex	2.03 ± 0.84	29*(53)*	45*(83)*	22*(41)*	4*(7)*	1*(1)*
Acquaintance	Oral Sex	2.25 ± 0.96	25*(45)*	36*(66)*	31*(56)*	7*(13)*	2*(3)*
Relationship	Oral Sex	2.38 ± 0.87	16*(30)*	37*(68)*	38*(69)*	8*(14)*	1*(1)*
Stranger	Sexual Intercourse	1.24 ± 0.51	80*(148)*	18*(33)*	2*(4)*	1*(1)*	0*()*
Acquaintance	Sexual Intercourse	2.27 ± 1.02	26*(46)*	36*(64)*	28*(51)*	8*(14)*	3*(5)*
Relationship	Sexual Intercourse	2.45 ± 1.07	20*(37)*	37*(68)*	24*(45)*	15*(28)*	3*(6)*

Table 39: Q3 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			**"How responsible was person x for what happened?"**				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Relationship Type	**Sexual Activity**	**Mean ± SD**	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***	***%(n)***
Stranger	Kissing/ Fondling	1.21 ± 0.54	84*(151)*	12*(22)*	3*(5)*	1*(2)*	0*()*
Acquaintance	Kissing/ Fondling	2.06 ± 0.83	27*(51)*	43*(80)*	27*(50)*	3*(5)*	1*(1)*
Relationship	Kissing/ Fondling	3.14 ± 1.02	5*(10)*	17*(32)*	47*(86)*	18*(34)*	12*(22)*
Stranger	Oral Sex	1.28 ± 0.63	79*(147)*	15*(27)*	5*(9)*	1*(1)*	1*(1)*
Acquaintance	Oral Sex	2.24 ± 0.98	27*(49)*	31*(57)*	37*(67)*	2*(4)*	3*(6)*
Relationship	Oral Sex	2.52 ± 1.02	20*(36)*	25*(45)*	42*(77)*	10*(18)*	3*(6)*
Stranger	Sexual Intercourse	1.25 ± 0.54	78*(146)*	19*(35)*	2*(3)*	1*(2)*	0*()*
Acquaintance	Sexual Intercourse	2.58 ± 1.10	20*(36)*	24*(43)*	41*(73)*	9*(17)*	6*(11)*
Relationship	Sexual Intercourse	2.66 ± 0.96	14*(26)*	23*(43)*	48*(89)*	11*(20)*	3*(6)*

Table 40: Q4 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			**"How responsible was person x for what happened?"**				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Relationship Type	**Sexual Activity**	**Mean ± SD**	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***
Stranger	Kissing/ Fondling	4.84 ±0.66	2(4)	1(1)	0()	6(10)	92(165)
Acquaintance	Kissing/ Fondling	4.18 ±0.75	1(1)	2(4)	11(21)	51(96)	35(65)
Relationship	Kissing/ Fondling	3.59 ±0.90	3(5)	4(7)	42(77)	35(65)	16(30)
Stranger	Oral Sex	4.89 ±0.49	1(2)	0()	1(1)	6(11)	92(171)
Acquaintance	Oral Sex	4.17 ±0.87	2(4)	1(2)	14(26)	43(78)	40(73)
Relationship	Oral Sex	3.86 ±0.87	1(1)	6(11)	24(44)	46(83)	24(43)
Stranger	Sexual Intercourse	4.96 ±0.54	0()	1(2)	2(3)	19(35)	78(146)
Acquaintance	Sexual Intercourse	4.16 ±0.79	0()	1(1)	23(41)	37(66)	40(72)
Relationship	Sexual Intercourse	4.92 ±0.38	1(1)	0()	1(1)	4(8)	95(176)

Influence of Form of Non-consent

Table 41: Q2 - Participants' responses to "How sure are you about your selected response?"

Scenario			**"How sure are you with your selected response?"**				
			Very Sure (1)	**Sure (2)**	**Somewhat Sure (3)**	**Unsure (4)**	**Very Unsure (5)**
Form of Non-consent	**Type of Relationship**	**Mean ± SD**	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***
Clear "no"	Acquaintance	2.27 ± 1.02	26(46)	36(64)	28(51)	8(14)	3(5)
	Relationship	2.45 ± 1.07	20(37)	37(68)	24(45)	15(28)	3(6)
Implied "no"	Acquaintance	2.19 ± 0.95	25(44)	44(77)	20(36)	10(19)	1(1)
	Relationship	3.07 ± 0.96	32(29)	39(35)	23(21)	4(4)	2(2)
Change Mind	Acquaintance	2.46 ± 1.00	19(34)	34(61)	32(59)	14(25)	2(3)
	Relationship	1.98 ± 0.97	37(67)	36(66)	21(38)	4(7)	2(4)
Prior Consent	Relationship	1.96 ± 0.91	37(67)	36(65)	21(37)	6(11)	0()
Alcohol	Acquaintance	1.75 ± 1.70	55(101)	29(53)	14(26)	2(4)	0(1)
	Relationship	1.59 ± 0.83	58(106)	30(54)	9(17)	2(4)	1(2)

Table 42: Q3 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			"How responsible was person x for what happened?"				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Form of Non-consent	**Type of Relationship**	**Mean ± SD**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**
Clear "no"	Acquaintance	2.58 ± 1.10	20(36)	24(43)	41(73)	9(17)	6(11)
	Relationship	2.66 ± 0.96	14(26)	23(43)	48(89)	11(20)	3(6)
Implied "no"	Acquaintance	2.31 ± 1.12	28(50)	31(55)	28(49)	8(14)	5(9)
	Relationship	2.00 ± 1.04	39(36)	33(30)	21(19)	4(4)	3(3)
Change Mind	Acquaintance	2.82 ± 1.00	13(23)	20(36)	43(78)	22(40)	3(5)
	Relationship	2.01 ± 0.97	37(68)	31(57)	26(48)	3(5)	4(2)
Prior Consent	Relationship	1.97 ± 1.04	41(74)	32(57)	19(34)	6(10)	5(3)
Alcohol	Acquaintance	2.13 ± 1.04	33(61)	33(62)	24(44)	7(13)	3(5)
	Relationship	1.67 ± 0.90	56(103)	26(48)	13(24)	3(6)	1(2)

Table 43: Q4 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			"How responsible was person x for what happened?"				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Form of Non-consent	**Type of Relationship**	**Mean ± SD**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**
Clear "no"	Acquaintance	4.16 ± 0.79	0()	1(1)	23(41)	37(66)	40(72)
	Relationship	4.92 ± 0.38	1(1)	0()	1(1)	4(8)	95(176)
Implied "no"	Acquaintance	4.17 ± 0.86	1(2)	2(3)	18(32)	37(66)	42(74)
	Relationship	4.38 ± 0.86	2(2)	1(1)	9(8)	33(30)	55(51)
Change Mind	Acquaintance	3.81 ± 0.82	1(2)	2(4)	31(57)	45(82)	20(37)
	Relationship	4.39 ± 0.73	0(1)	0()	11(20)	37(67)	52(94)
Prior Consent	Relationship	4.44 ± 0.70	1(1)	0()	9(16)	36(65)	54(98)
Alcohol	Acquaintance	4.49 ± 0.71	0(1)	1(2)	6(11)	34(62)	59(109)
	Relationship	4.77 ± 0.50	0()	0()	3(6)	17(31)	80(146)

Influence Survivor Gender

Table 44: Q2 - Participants' responses to "How sure are you about your selected response?"

Scenario			"How sure are you about your selected response?"				
			Very Sure (1)	**Sure (2)**	**Somewhat Sure (3)**	**Unsure (4)**	**Very Unsure (5)**
Gender of Survivor	**Form of Non-Consent**	**Mean ± SD**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**	**%(*n*)**
Male	Clear "no"	1.45 ± 0.69	66(120)	23(42)	10(81)	1(1)	0()
Female	Clear "no"	2.27 ± 1.02	26(46)	36(64)	28(51)	8(14)	3(5)
Male	Alcohol	1.72 ± 0.94	53(95)	31(56)	11(20)	3(6)	2(4)
Female	Alcohol	1.75 ± 1.70	55(101)	29(53)	14(26)	2(4)	0(1)

Table 45: Q3 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			**"How responsible was person x for what happened?"**				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Gender of Survivor	**Form of Non-Consent**	**Mean ± SD**	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***
Male	Clear "no"	1.20 ± 0.63	87*(159)*	8*(14)*	3*(6)*	0*(1)*	1*(2)*
Female	Clear "no"	2.58 ± 1.10	20*(36)*	24*(43)*	41*(73)*	9*(17)*	6*(11)*
Male	Alcohol	1.44 ± 0.76	70*(127)*	18*(33)*	10*(18)*	1*(2)*	1*(1)*
Female	Alcohol	2.13 ± 1.04	33*(61)*	33*(62)*	24*(44)*	7*(13)*	3*(5)*

Table 46: Q4 - Participants' responses to "How responsible was person x for what happened?"

Scenario			**"How responsible was person x for what happened?"**				
			Not (1)	**A Little (2)**	**Somewhat (3)**	**Mostly (4)**	**Entirely (5)**
Gender of Survivor	**Form of Non-Consent**	**Mean ± SD**	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***	**%*(n)***
Male	Clear "no"	4.88 ± 0.38	0*()*	0*()*	1*(2)*	9*(16)*	90*(164)*
Female	Clear "no"	4.16 ± 0.79	0*()*	1*(1)*	23*(41)*	37*(66)*	40*(72)*
Male	Alcohol	4.80 ± 0.60	1*(2)*	1*(1)*	2*(3)*	11*(20)*	86*(155)*
Female	Alcohol	4.49 ± 0.71	0*(1)*	1*(2)*	6*(11)*	34*(62)*	59*(109)*

Appendix F

Influence of Relationship Type and Form of Forced Sexual Activity

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Survivor Responsibility

1) Stranger

Kissing/Fondling

- She didn't want that and she was defensless
- There may possibly have been more she could have done. However, she should not feel guilty.
- She went to a dance. It may be considered a pre-sexual area.
- It's not her fault.
- She didn't not consent to any of his actions.
- A smile is not an invitation for sexual activity.
- She shouldn't be standing off by herself but the guy overpowered her and there was nothing she could do.
- She didn't know it was going to happen and she did try to stop it.

Oral Sex

- She "possibly" could have gotten campus security to escort her or she could have taken the bus.
- Though she could have paid more attention to her surroundings and could have used.
- Safewalk if that guy hadn't been there and made the choices he did, she wouldn't have been assaulted.
- She might have saved herself by not going into a parking lot alone at night – that was kind of dumb.
- She should have taken more steps toward her own safety – the results were not her fault, but she could have done more to prevent it.
- She is not responsible at all – she however should not walk along at night.
- She said "no"
- She cannot control the action of others
- She didn't know this person. She gave him no indication that she wanted to engage in sexual relations with him and she said "no".

Intercourse

- How is she responsible? She could've walked with a friend but she still did not bring it on herself.
- She did not think the guy was following her or had interest in her.
- She didn't know him and had no relationship with him (no provocation). She was in a fairly safe place.
- She just wasn't.
- The man is over aggressive. She said "no".
- Walking alone after dark where there are few people around.
- It's not her fault some jerk jumped he.
- She did not think the guy was following her or had interest in her.

2) Acquaintance

Kissing/Fondling

- She should have given stronger signals.
- She should have told him to leave, not worrying about what he thought. If he was a guy of integrity he would have respected her actions.
- She was giving mixed signals to a guy who was probably drunk.
- She could have let earlier.
- She should have been straight up with him and told him to leave when she already got an uncomfortable vibe.
- She said "no".
- She should not have let him stay a while considering his behavior. Maybe gave him "mixed messages".
- She could have not invited him in if she felt she didn't want to deal with sexual advances.
- She should have asked him to leave after his first attempt.

Oral Sex

- She did not willingly resist. If she had tried and he overpowered her then it would have been more wrong.
- She was making out with him in the first place and she still preformed oral sex and she could have ran or screamed if she didn't want to.
- Don't got to parties and go upstairs with boys unless you want things like this to happen (she could have avoided the situation).
- She said "no".
- She could have left.
- She still could have refused despite his pressuring.
- She actively participated. She was not forced.
- She had oral sex with him. She could have stopped but didn't so it she really didn't want to she wouldn't have.

Intercourse

- She preformed oral sex – she is stupid.
- Although she stated her stance, she was not forceful.
- It looks like she only protested before the assault.
- She let him.
- She made it clear as to what her intentions were.
- She said 'no'.
- She invited him home. She had to expect something was going to happen. Doesn't sound like she put up too much of a fight.
- She did nothing to stop it.

2) Relationship

Kissing/Fondling

- He never forced anything. He was ready to leave and she couldn't let him. However, it still was somewhat against her wishes.
- She should have just not started kissing him after she didn't want to.
- She could have refused but didn't.
- She said "no" then in order to make him not be angry she started kissing him.
- She didn't need to please him. Her passiveness and desire to avoid conflict is her own fault.
- She still could have refused despite his pressuring her.

- In the end she chose to make out with him. He didn't force her.
- She should get some self-confidence and not be a pushover.

Oral Sex

- She could have left, then she started kissing him.
- Being wishy washy is not way to deal with others.
- She asked him to come back when he was going to leave – she could have avoided the situation.
- She let him, she could have walked away.
- She made it clear what she was comfortable doing and not doing.
- She could have maintained her position.
- She should say "screw off, " and she should realize any guy pushing her like that should be alone. She just kept pulling him back.
- As the girl she should say "no" and be consistent. Being wishy-washy only causes the guy not to take what you say seriously.

Intercourse

- Although she said "no", she allowed him to do what he wanted.
- She let things go really far before she pushed the panic button. She needs to be more assertive!
- After she said, "of course I love you." That could be viewed as consent. If they were as close as it sounds, if she would have said no again, he would have stopped.
- She should have told him to stop instead of letting him keep going.
- She didn't say "no". She has to express her feelings clearly in order for them to be respected. She has to assert herself!
- She probably should have been more direct and said "no" and then moved out of the room.
- She didn't insist on him not continuing.
- She didn't stop him.

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Offender Responsibility

1) Stranger

Kissing/Fondling

- He initiated it all and grabbed her arms when she protested
- He was entirely too forward and didn't pay heed to her responses
- He shouldn't have done that. He may have been drunk though
- He forced her
- He violated her even after she protested
- He acted on his own invitation
- He came up to her and began fondling without her consent
- Because he used his strength to assault her. No one made him do that to her but himself

Oral Sex

- He had the intention and put in the effort to take advantage of someone
- He assaulted her
- He assaulted her. He is a criminal who deserves to be castrated

- He took advantage of her
- He forced himself upon her when she said "no"
- Forced himself on her
- He took advantage of her and forced her
- He initiated it all
- She did not know him at all, she wasn't being a tease or flirting with him, he forced her into sexual intercourse and she cried "no"

Intercourse

- He committed rape
- He ripped off her clothes and pinned her arms and overpowered her when she said "no"
- No unclear messages or provocation
- He raped her
- She said "no"
- His actions were violent and inappropriate. The advance was not consensual
- He forced her. There was no prior relationship. It was completely all his doing
- He should behave like a human and not and animal

2) Acquaintance

Kissing/Fondling

- He should have listened to her. She said, "no" three times and yet he persisted, obviously he cares only about sex and not about her feelings
- Drunk or not, he was being pushy – Amy needs to have a serious talk with him later
- He was obviously trying to coax her into doing more than she wanted. It was good that he left, though.
- He should have respected her wishes from the beginning
- He forced himself on her when she said no, but at some time he may have thought that he was being encourages when she agreed to let him stay
- He should have respected her wishes
- He didn't respect her wishes and kept pushing the issue

Oral Sex

- He knew she was uncomfortable and essentially forced her although she never outright said "no"
- He should have taken the hint that she didn't want to perform oral sex on him . He shouldn't have held her head in his lap
- He could have stopped and should have after her first rejection
- He didn't listen to her
- He was a smooth talker
- He pressured her into doing something she really didn't want to do
- He chose to do it. Actively participated.
- He should have respected her pulling away (not wanting to) instead of pressuring her into it

Intercourse

- He deliberately ignored her wishes, it is entirely too early in their relationship for him to assume she was only acting reluctant. Later on if this happened, he still would be at fault if she truly didn't want to.
- He was stupid – they both were

- That was what he wanted in the first place-he tested the waters and she didn't resist
- He did it without her agreeing
- He was told what kinds of behaviors were wanted and not wanted.
- He didn't respect her refusal for sex
- She said "no" and he pushed forward
- He wouldn't leave

2) Relationship

Kissing/Fondling

- Shouldn't have been forceful, but never used aggression or physical force
- He shouldn't have been complaining about not getting any
- He tried to persuade her
- He should have listened to her when she said "no"
- She didn't need to feel guilty, he would have left if she didn't start kissing him again
- He not only pressured her but he also manipulated her emotions to get what he wanted
- He initiated it and actively participated
- He should have respected her and not pressure her. If she doesn't want to he should take care of things himself.

Oral Sex

- He pushed her head down on his lap but he did give her a chance to leave
- Shameless manipulation puts fault mostly on him
- He peer-pressured her
- He was a jerk! His intentions are to use women to get sexual pleasure. If he doesn't reach his goal soon he'll dump her and find a slut.
- He forced unwanted sexual behavior on her
- He pressured her into it
- He should have respected her choices, obviously he doesn't care for her.
- He should have respected her decision of what she wanted

Intercourse

- He didn't listen when she said "no"
- He should have listened.
- He didn't take heed of what she said the first time but I could understand why he might have thought she consented. And with men, sometimes just lying there does not make it clear that you're not interested. He shouldn't have pressured her using guilt.
- He should have respected her concerns and stopped
- He should have respected her feelings from the beginning
- He manipulated Jen and mad her do something she didn't want to do
- He didn't respect her initial answer and tried to convince her of what was ok
- He didn't care about her and put his own needs above hers

Influence of Form of Non-consent

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Survivor Responsibility

1) Acquaintance

Direct "no"

- She preformed oral sex – she it stupid
- Although she stated her stance, she was not forceful
- It looks like she only protested before the assault
- She let him
- She made it clear as to what her intentions were
- She said 'no'
- She invited him home. She had to expect something was going to happen. Doesn't sound like she put up too much of a fight
- She did nothing to stop it

Change of Mind

- She led him to believe she wanted sex and to stop suddenly she needed to be less passive and more forceful
- You don't pick up a total stranger, take him to your house and have oral sex if you aren't wanting to have sex
- If she didn't want to, she should have repeated "no". It doesn't sound like he physically forced her
- She should a said no from the beginning. Plus, she should never have invited him to her place after knowing him for only one night
- Even though she eventually said she didn't want to have sex she didn't give Paul that impression.
- She should have been more forceful. If she didn't want to have sex and she told him that and he still did it then she should have physically tried to stop him instead of just letting him have sex with her
- She made her wishes known but a little too late. She should have insisted after he tried to convince her that it was okay that she wasn't comfortable.
- She could have stopped him if she wanted to

Implied "no"

- She wanted to leave but she did put herself in a dangerous situation by going up to a room with him alone to talk
- She was hesitant but never clearly said "no"
- She should have been more adamant with her decision and gotten up and left
- She let him
- She didn't fight him off, or say "no". Should not have been dumb enough to go upstairs. Gives the wrong impression
- She didn't force her point
- She told him she wasn't comfortable once he started to unbutton her pants
- She brought him upstairs alone and made out with him. She got herself into a bad situation

Incapable (Alcohol)

- If you are going to drink yourself into a state of passing out you should make sure you know someone around who will take care of you
- She was at a shady party, accepted a drink from an unknown guy (that probably had a date-rape drug in it). She should have gone home with her friends instead of staying later. She was forced though, without her consent
- She put herself in a dangerous position by drinking too much
- She had no idea what was going on.
- She was assaulted
- She shouldn't have allowed herself to get that drunk
- She shouldn't have been so dizzy and drunk
- Should've been a little more responsible in drinking, but didn't consent

2) Relationship

Direct "no"

- Although she said "no", she allowed him to do what he wanted
- She let things go really far before she pushed the panic button. She needs to be more assertive!
- After she said "of course I love you," that could be viewed as consent. If they were as close as it sounds, if she would have said no again, he would have stopped.
- She should have told him to stop instead of letting him keep going
- She didn't say "no". She has to express her feelings clearly in order for them to be respected. She has to assert herself!
- She probably should have been more direct and said "no" and then moved out of the room
- She didn't insist on him not continuing
- She didn't stop him

Change of Mind

- She ascended to his wishes
- Got herself into this situation. She knew what was going to happen
- She let him, even though she wasn't ready
- He planned the night, said she was ready, obviously gave the impression she wanted to have sex
- She made it clear she was not ready
- She led him on and put herself in that situation
- She said she was ready but then backed off, she didn't argue further
- She should have been more adamant with her answer

Implied "no"

- She told him "no"
- She let him in, did not fight back or cry out.
- She was not forceful with her refusals
- She should have told him to leave again.
- She didn't really refuse as much as she could have
- She obviously didn't want it to stop if that was the only objection she had.
- She didn't resist
- She shouldn't have invited him up if she had stuff to do

Incapable (Alcohol)

- You don't just "pass out" like that
- Though she shouldn't have allowed him to stay he knew she didn't want to have sex
- She said "no"
- How could she protect herself when she was passed out?
- It was not her fault that she ended up having sex because she was tired and had to sleep
- She trusted him but she was drunk
- Shouldn't have drank so much as to not know what was happening
- She didn't say "no" when she saw him having sex with her

Prior Consent

- She made her intention clear and shouldn't expect her boyfriend would use force to have sex with her
- She shouldn't have let it go that far. She pretty stupid if she thinks a guy is going to just turn off after all that
- She was engaging in such behavior but she did say "no"
- She could have stopped it
- They're dating – she could have told him to leave
- She repeatedly rejected his advances
- She was there with him knowing that something like that could happen; she didn't fight against his efforts. She chose to stay there
- She told him she didn't want to. Not sure if this situation is. If she was really adamant she could have been more forceful with her response.

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Offender Responsibility

1) Acquaintance

Direct "no"

- He deliberately ignored her wishes, it is entirely too early in their relationship for him to assume she was only acting reluctant. Later on if this happened, he still would be at fault if she truly didn't want to.
- He was stupid – they both were
- That was what he wanted in the first place-he tested the waters and she didn't resist
- He did it without her agreeing
- He was told what kinds of behaviors were wanted and not wanted.
- He didn't respect her refusal for sex
- She said "no" and he pushed forward
- He wouldn't leave

Change of Mind

- He should have listened to Stacey … besides he got action, why'd he need more?
- He should not have tried to convince her. The first no means no
- He should have told her he respected her and just not gone through with things as she'd already expressed that she didn't want to
- She did not say "no"
- He didn't listen when she said she wasn't ready
- He didn't respect her initial decision

- He manipulated the situation
- He pressured her but she gave in

Implied "no"

- She did want to leave
- He is trying to psychologically dominate her, she never said "yes"
- He didn't need to be such an eager-beaver
- He did it without her total consent
- Should have maybe talked to her about why she didn't want to do it, or left it alone at that and left
- He should have respected her decision that she didn't think it was a good idea
- He knew what he wanted and disregarded her comments about stopping
- He pulled back initially but went with it afterwards and didn't stick to her initial reaction
- He didn't respect her answer of "no"

Incapable (Alcohol)

- No consent. He's a pig!
- Gave her a date-rape drug, initiated sexual intercourse without her consent
- He took advantage of a person whom he knew was not in the right state of mind to make a conscious decision
- The girl was passed out and obviously not consenting
- He didn't have consent
- She was passed out and couldn't say "no" but he may have been drunk too
- He had sex with a gril who was too drunk to stay awake. At least her used a condom
- He obviously intended for this to happen. He took advantage of a drunk woman

2) Relationship

- He didn't listen when she said "no"
- He should have listened.
- He didn't take heed of what she said the first time but I could understand why he might have thought she consented. And with men, sometimes just lying there does not make it clear that you're not interested. He shouldn't have pressured her using guilt.
- He should have respected her concerns and stopped
- He should have respected her feelings from the beginning
- He manipulated Jen and mad her do something she didn't want to do
- He didn't respect her initial answer and tried to convince her of what was ok
- He didn't care about her and put his own needs above hers

Change of Mind

- He essentially forced himself on her when she said "no" using psychological methods
- Broke the trust they had
- He didn't care about her thoughts or feelings
- Should have listened when she said she wasn't ready and he should have stopped
- He ignored Jen's comments about not being ready
- He shouldn't have pushed her that extra step
- He should have listened to her instead of his own needs. There was a miscommunication where he thought it was ok and that she was just nervous.

- He should have respected her decision and not had sex with someone who stated they were not ready

Implied "no"

- He didn't respect her
- He initiated, continued and chose to do it.
- He ignored her wishes
- He should have listened to her.
- He ignored her subtle cues to leave
- She had an exam coming up. He could have waited till after.
- He didn't use excessive force
- He was just trying to get some action

Incapable (Alcohol)

- He took advantage of her without asking for consent
- He should have respected her wishes. No consent
- He was the one forcing her
- He took advantage of someone that trusted him while she was sleeping
- He had sex even though he knew she was asleep. What kind of person does that?
- It was not consensual because she was not able to give consent
- She said "no"
- He knew she didn't want sex and proceeded against her will while she was vulnerable and unable to protest

Prior Consent

- He raped her and obviously doesn't love her if he can't respect her wishes
- He is a jerk! If a girl doesn't want to have sex then you don't have sex. You make her want it so bad that she forced you
- He didn't consider her refusals seriously
- He could have stopped but didn't
- He should have listened to her
- He took advantage of a consensual sexual relationship that already existed when he knew she didn't want to
- He chose to do it.
- He misunderstood her

Influence of Survivor Gender

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Survivor Responsibility

1) Male

Direct "no"

- He was physically dominated after fairly clearly saying "no"
- Did he not see this coming? He did tell him no and was resistance
- He allowed it to happen
- He was just being friends with the guy. He didn't give any wrong impressions.

- He only asked Jeff to come up for pizza and movies and told him to stop when he started the unwanted behaviors
- He had no idea that Jeff was gay
- He just wanted to hang out with a friend
- Didn't know it was coming

Incapable (Alcohol)

- Well he must have been gay or else he'd have gotten he hell out of there fast
- He should have made proper arrangements for getting home after drinking but he was not responsible for what happened
- His friend should have been watching out for him
- He did make himself unsafe by getting drunk enough to pass out
- He was out to have a good time and he was taken advantage of
- He shouldn't have gotten so drunk to the point that he wasn't able to say "no"
- Not conscious. Did not consent.
- He should have drank so much as to not know what was happening

2) Female

Direct "no"

- She preformed oral sex – she it stupid
- Although she stated her stance, she was not forceful
- It looks like she only protested before the assault
- She let him
- She made it clear as to what her intentions were
- She said 'no'
- She invited him home. She had to expect something was going to happen. Doesn't sound like she put up too much of a fight
- She did nothing to stop it

Incapable (Alcohol)

- If you are going to drink yourself into a state of passing out you should make sure you know someone around who will take care of you
- She was at a shady party, accepted a drink from an unknown guy (that probably had a date-rape drug in it). She should have gone home with her friends instead of staying later. She was forced though, without her consent
- She put herself in a dangerous position by drinking too much
- She had no idea what was going on.
- She was assaulted
- She shouldn't have allowed herself to get that drunk
- She shouldn't have been so dizzy and drunk
- Should've been a little more responsible in drinking, but didn't consent

Selected Written Responses for Assigned Offender Responsibility

1) Male

Direct "no"

- He's continuing by force after being told to stop
- Lead him on, forceful
- He didn't have consent

- He down right raped the guy. Pushed him down and used force.
- He raped another guy who didn't suspect a thing
- He forcefully had intercourse with someone who clearly was not willing
- He forced himself on Rick without consent. They weren't making-out first, there was no sign of sexual interest and no miscommunication.
- He forced it

Incapable (Alcohol)

- He didn't ask for permission and he knew that Bill couldn't give it and that Bill was very vulnerable
- Bill was totally helpless (and stupid) and Joel took advantage of that
- Is a lack of consent the same as saying "no"? If he drugged Bill then it would be rape, but otherwise they were both drunk. Then again he didn't ask for consent. I'm really unsure about this one.
- He forced him
- He was taking advantage of the situation. Didn't have consent
- Taking advantage of a drunk guy
- He didn't have consent
- He was probably drunk. He took advantage of Bill

2) Female

Direct "no"

- He deliberately ignored her wishes, it is entirely too early in their relationship for him to assume she was only acting reluctant. Later on if this happened, he still would be at fault if she truly didn't want to.
- He was stupid – they both were
- That was what he wanted in the first place-he tested the waters and she didn't resist
- He did it without her agreeing
- He was told what kinds of behaviors were wanted and not wanted.
- He didn't respect her refusal for sex
- She said "no" and he pushed forward
- He wouldn't leave

Incapable (Alcohol)

- He took advantage of her without asking for consent
- He should have respected her wishes. No consent
- He was the one forcing her
- He took advantage of someone that trusted him while she was sleeping
- He had sex even though he knew she was asleep. What kind of person does that?
- It was not consensual because she was not able to give consent
- She said "no"
- He knew she didn't want sex and proceeded against her will while she was vulnerable and unable to protest